三國群英傳

火鳳燎原

jono23

34

陳某

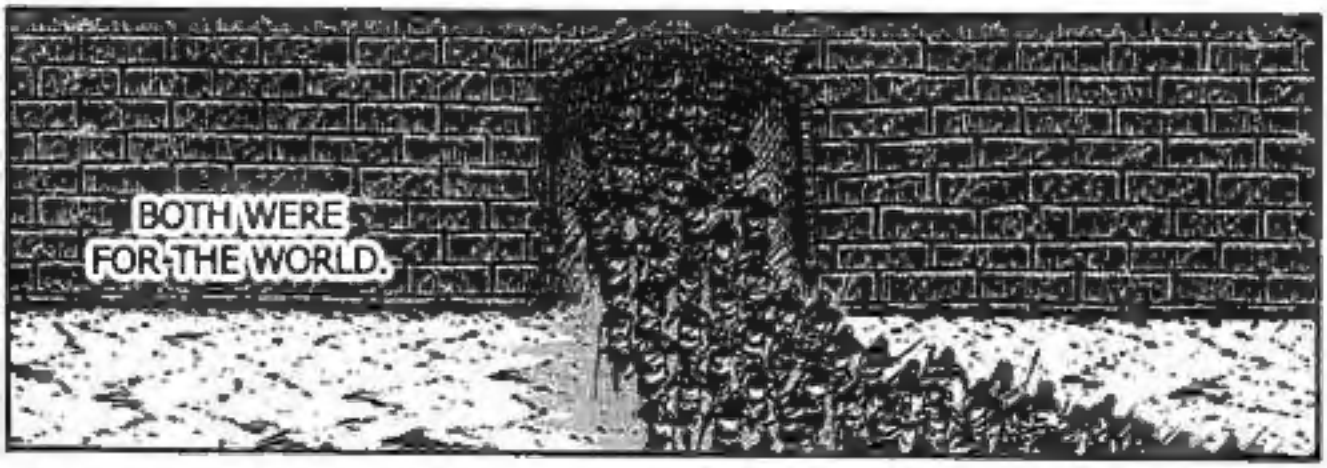
The Ravages of Time

殘存亦復
兵敗如山

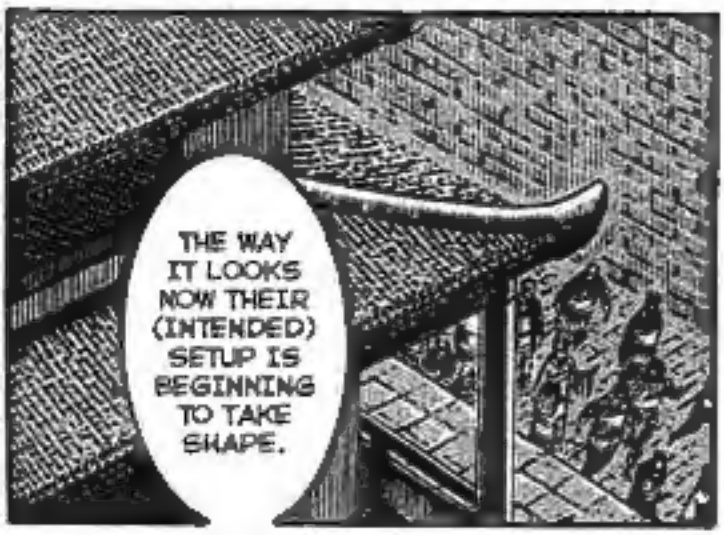
目錄

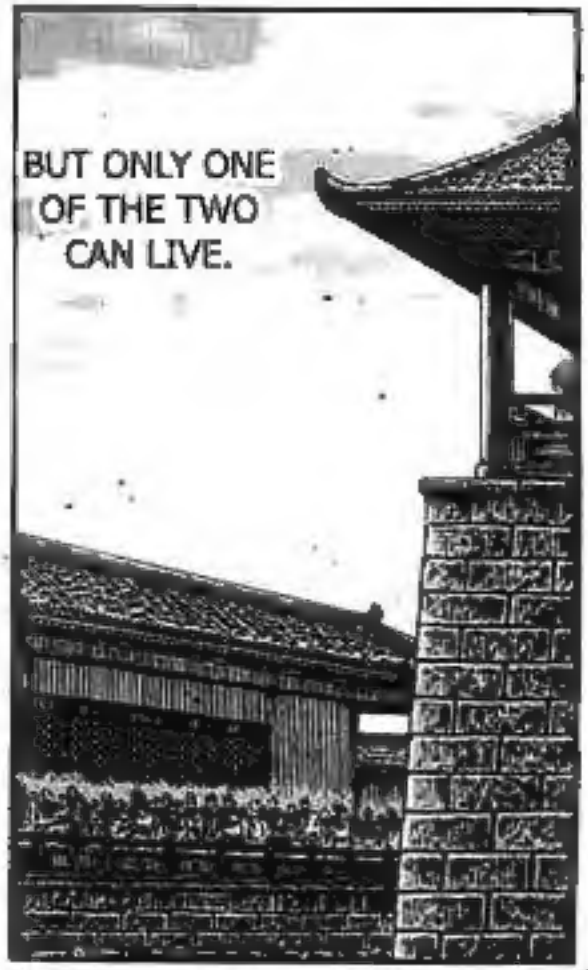
第二百七十回　梟雄同飲 3
第二百七十一回　兵行險著 31
第二百七十二回　死守不讓 53
第二百七十三回　火上加油 79
第二百七十四回　第二怪人 103
第二百七十五回　兩隻惡鬼 127
第二百七十六回　落難公子 145
第二百七十七回　大敵當前 169

BOTH WERE
ANTI-HEROES.


BOTH WERE
FOR THE WORLD.

SO FAST.
YUAN SHAO
HAS ALREADY
DEPLOYED
TROOPS IN
SHEQUAN
LAST YEAR.


THE WAY
IT LOOKS
NOW THEIR
(INTENDED)
SETUP IS
BEGINNING
TO TAKE
SHAPE.


BUT ONLY ONE
OF THE TWO
CAN LIVE.

CHAPTER 270 A DRINK BETWEEN ANTI-HEROES

WE'RE ADAPTING, HOWEVER. SHI HUAN'S FORCES WILL DEFEND OUR SOUTHERN BORDER.
ARMY OVERSEER XIAOHOU YUAN WILL EVEN LEAD THE MAIN FORCE TO DEFEND ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER.
NONE OF OUR VARIOUS DEFENSE POSITIONS HAS WEAK POINTS. WE AWAIT THE DAY OF BATTLE.
YUE JIN WILL SPECIALIZE IN SURPRISE ATTACKS WHILE LI DIAN WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE SUPPLY LINE. EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER.

AS WE APPROACH WAR, YUAN SHAO CERTAINLY HAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED HIS TRIBUTES TO THE EMPEROR - A TELLTALE SIGN.
CAO REN
XUN YOU
BESIDES THAT, HIS BROTHER YUAN SHU HAS ALSO BEEN BUSY USING THE MILITARY. PEOPLE IN AND AROUND SHOUCHUN HAVE LOST ALL OF THEIR RESOURCES TO THE DRAFT. COMPLAINTS FILL THE STREETS.
THOSE TWO HAVE IMMENSE POWER. THEIR DEFENSE LINE ALREADY MATCH HALF OF OUR FORCES.
THE FIRST PHASE OF GUO JIA'S SETUP HAS TAKEN SHAPE.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, LIU BIAO HAS BEEN EXPANDING HIS ARMY RECENTLY, TOTALING OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN.
THE MOST WORRISOME THING IS THAT OUR FORCES ARE ALL CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTH. WE'LL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE IF JINGZHOU'S LIU BIAO ALLIES WITH THE YUAN CLAN.
TRIBUTES MAKE UP PART OF OUR RESOURCES. AND NOW...
COINCIDENTALLY, LIU BIAO'S TRIBUTES THESE MONTHS HAVE ALSO DECREASED.
CAO HONG
IT'S WEIRD; THE COURT IS CALM, AND THE EMPEROR IS TAKING IT ALL IN STRIDE.
SO WHAT DO MEMBERS OF THE COURT THINK OF THIS SITUATION?

THAT MEANS... THE EMPEROR APPROVES OF THIS AS WELL.
IF THE EMPEROR DOES NOT VOICE HIS OPINION, THE WARLORDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS WILL NOT OBEY OUR COMMAND.
THE EMPEROR DARES TO DO THIS, IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE INSIDERS IN THE COURT WHO ARE ENCOURAGING HIM.
I THINK IT TAKES BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS TO OVERTHROW OUR LORD.
SO IT SEEMS... THE EXTERMINATION WAS NOT THOROUGH, AND NOW THE BUGS ARE CAUSING MORE DAMAGE.
YUAN SHAO TO OUR NORTH; LIU BIAO TO OUR SOUTH; WHICH (TRAITOR) AMONG US?

MA TENG'S FORCE IS NOT WEAK. HM, ANOTHER LOOSE END.
YUAN SHAO'S ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR HAS ALERTED US TO CALL XILIANG'S MA TENG TO AID OUR NORTHERN DEFENSES. THE XILIANG ARMY MOVES FAST. IF THEY LISTEN TO YUAN SHAO'S COMMAND, THEY CAN OCCUPY XU (CAPITAL) WITHIN A DAY.
IF THEY ADD LIU BIAO AND MA TENG, THEIR ALLIED FORCES WILL BE MORE THAN TEN TIMES THE SIZE OF OURS.
GUO JIA WILL DEAL WITH YUAN SHAO WHILE WE HANDLE THE REST. NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS WHO WILL LIGHT THE FUSE.
BUT THESE CAN ONLY HAPPEN AFTER YUAN SHAO MAKES HIS MOVE.
I HAVE AN IDEA TO TAKE ON YUAN SHU.
THE ZHONGJIA EMPIRE, NO DOUBT.

A "SORT OF" COUPLET: "THE ENEMY PLANS TO SIGN... HE FUSE WITH YUAN SHU. WE WILL USE TALK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO REDIRECT THE WIND."

YES. THE CHAOS TODAY IS THE RESULT OF MORAL EROSION. IF WE CAN HURT ZHONGJIA JSING RIGHTEOUSNESS, YUAN SHAO WILL HAVE TO THINK TWICE BEFORE REBELLING.

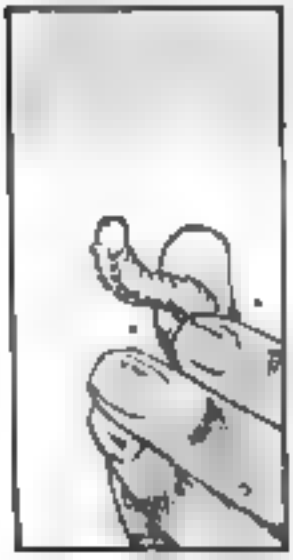
I BELIEVE AN ELITE ARMY OF TEN THOUSAND IS ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE ZHONGJIA EMPIRE.
JIA DA, YUAN SHAO WILL SURELY FIND AN OPPORTUNITY AGAINST US IF WE ATTACK YUAN SHU. WE MIGHT WIN IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WE'RE IN DANGER OF LOSING OUR GROUND!
WITH THAT SMALL AN ARMY, THE COMMANDER MUST REALLY HAVE THE ABILITY TO RALLY THE WORLD.
OUR LORD TOOK HIM IN BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THE ESSENCE OF ADVISOR XUN YU'S MILITARY PHILOSOPHY...
THAT'S RIGHT. NOT ONLY MUST HE BE GOOD AT COMMAND, HIS REPUTATION MUST ALSO BE WORLD RENOWNED IN ORDER TO UNITE THE SCATTERED WARLORDS FOR THIS CAUSE.

MAINTAIN AN ARMY FOR A THOUSAND DAYS FOR USE IN ONE (CRUCIAL) MOMENT.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING, MY LORD

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR HAVING NOTHING PREP-ARED.

THEN... I'LL NOTIFY HIM.
MI ZHU

XIAHOU DUN
YOU'RE TOO KIND, SIR MI ZHU. WE'RE ONLY HERE TO VISIT THE IMPERIAL UNCLE.

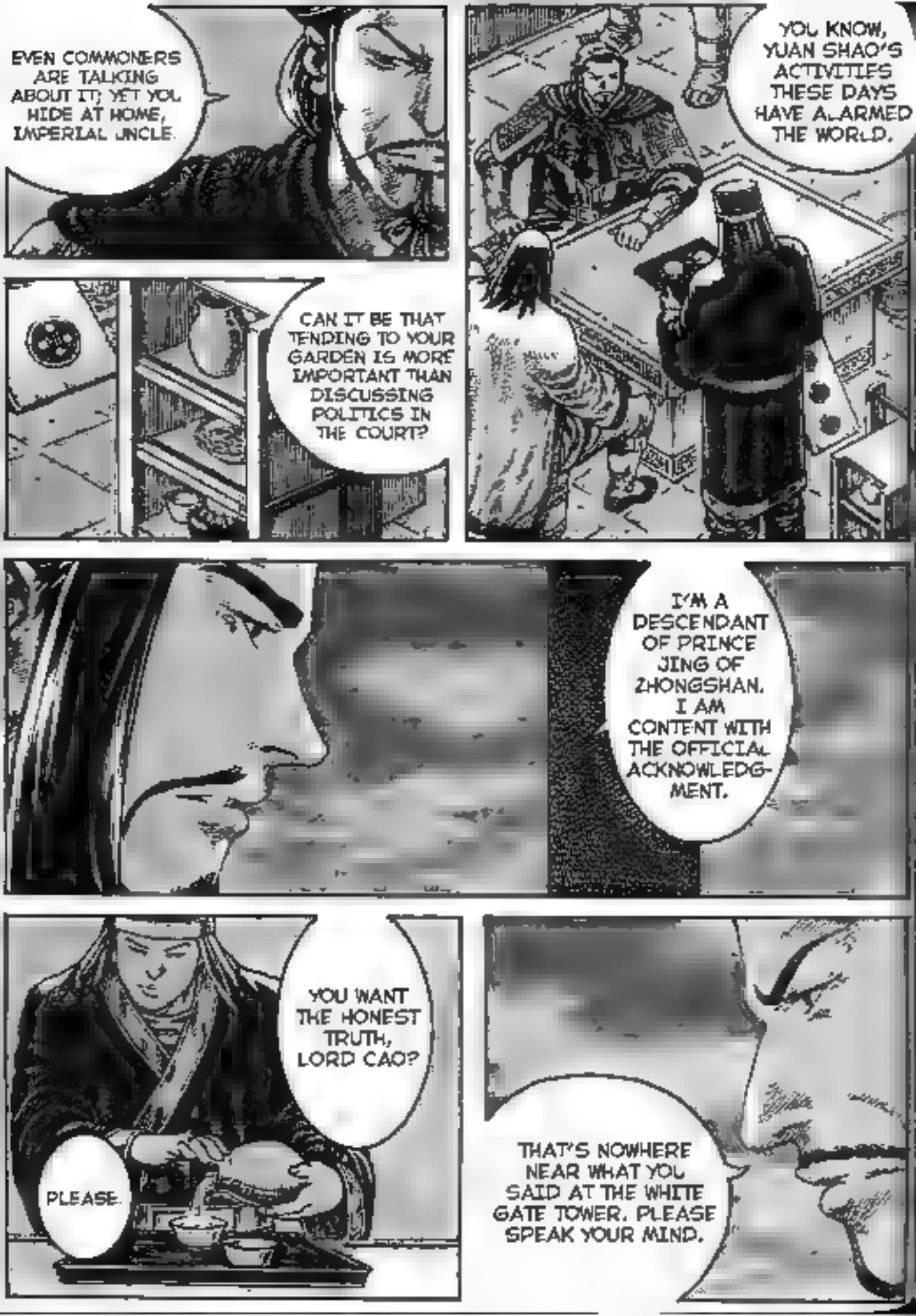


XU CHU
NO NEED. WE'LL SHOW OURSELVES IN.

JOHN 23

(XUAN DE IS LIL BEI'S COURTESY NAME) •

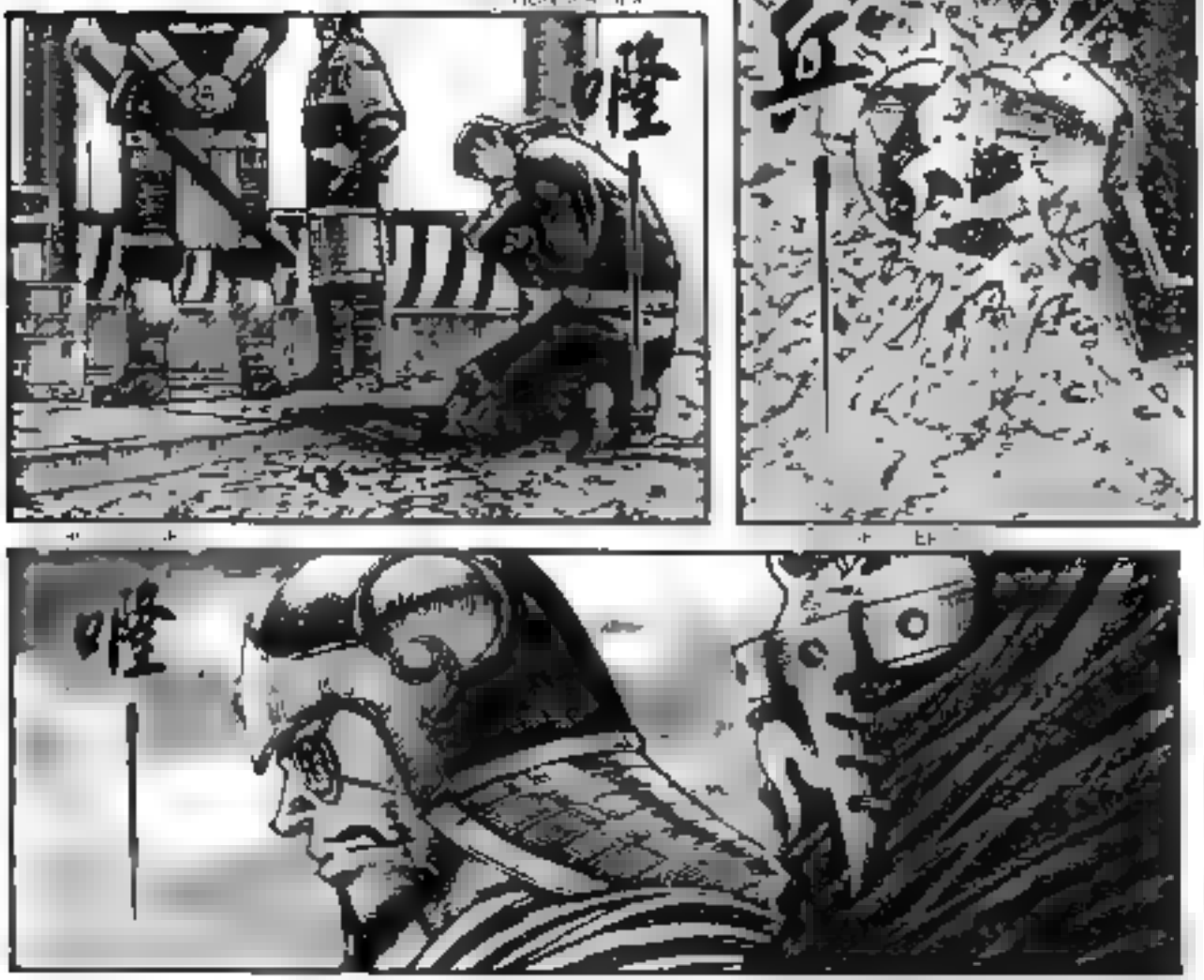
WHAT YOU'RE DOING ALSO STARTLES ME, IMPERIAL UNCLE.
YOUR SUDDEN VISIT STARTLED ME, LORD CAO.
I'M ASHAMED TO SAY THAT WORK HAS MADE ME FORGET ABOUT YOU, WHO WAS A GREAT HELP IN ELIMINATING LU BU.
HAVING PREPARED SOME WINE AND APPETIZER TODAY I MAKE A POINT TO DRINK WITH YOU.


EVEN COMMONERS ARE TALKING ABOUT IT; YET YOU HIDE AT HOME, IMPERIAL UNCLE.
YOU KNOW, YUAN SHAO'S ACTIVITIES THESE DAYS HAVE ALARMED THE WORLD.
CAN IT BE THAT TENDING TO YOUR GARDEN IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DISCUSSING POLITICS IN THE COURT?
I'M A DESCENDANT OF PRINCE JING OF ZHONGSHAN. I AM CONTENT WITH THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.
YOU WANT THE HONEST TRUTH, LORD CAO?
PLEASE.
THAT'S NOWHERE NEAR WHAT YOU SAID AT THE WHITE GATE TOWER. PLEASE SPEAK YOUR MIND.

HAHA, YOU REMIND ME OF MYSELF WHEN I WAS NEW TO POLITICS.
THE COURT IS FULL OF IDIOTS AND SCOUNDRELS. I CAN'T STAND THEM!
PA'
WHAT'S WORSE, THEY CLAIM TO SERVE HAN, BUT THEY IGNORE THE FACT THAT YUAN SHU DECLARED HIMSELF THE EMPEROR. IS THAT HOW THEY SHOULD BEHAVE IN COURT?
YUAN SHAO'S ROYAL CLAN IS KNOWN FOR THREE GENERATIONS OF DEDICATION TO THE EMPEROR, BUT HIS ACTION DEVIATES FROM THIS LOYALTY IT'S UNFATHOMABLE
YUAN SHAO'S RECENT ACTION HAS ANGERED ANYONE WHO HAS HEARD ABOUT IT, AND YET NONE OF THE MINISTERS REPRIMANDED HIM.

YOUR SHOW OF INTEGRITY MAKES YUAN SHAO APPEAR MORE DISHONORABLE.
HERE.
BUT IMPERIAL UNCLE, DID YOU KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS BEHIND YUAN SHAO'S REBELLION?
AND HE HAS SUCH A BACKGROUND THAT EVEN I WAS CAUGHT OFF-GUARD...

THUNDER SFX
噔


THUNDER SFx
HE IS STILL NO MATCH FOR HEAVEN.
("NO MATTER HOW BIG HE IS, HE CAN'T BE BIGGER THAN THE SKY")
I AM DETERMINED TO SAVE THE WORLD HE DOES NOT SCARE ME!
("I HAVE THE HEART/INTENTION TO SAVE THE WORLD: NO MATTER HOW BIG, I DO NOT FEAR IT")

HIS MAJESTY IS STILL YOUNG. HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR INTENTIONS!
WHAT INFLUENCE DO MEN IN POWER HAVE IF THEY DO NOT SEIZE CONTROL?
WHAT GREAT THINGS CAN SAVIORS ACCOMPLISH IF THEY ARE NOT DICTATORS?

THE WORLD CANNOT BE SAVED BY A NAIVE YOUNGSTER WHO CHANGES POLICIES AT WHIM.
THE WORLD CANNOT BE SAVED BY FOOLISH VASSALS OF THE FORMER REGIME WITH THEIR USELESS POLITICS.
ONLY YOU AND I WALK THE SAME PATH!
OF ALL THE HEROES IN THE WORLD,

I DON'T ATTEND (THE COURT), LORD CAO, BECAUSE OF BUG(S).
IMPERIAL UNCLE, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO ASSEMBLE TEN THOUSAND ELITES WITH FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND IN FUNDING TO MARCH TO XUZHOU AND ELIMINATE YUAN SHU.
THEN I ASK YOU, IMPERIAL UNCLE, TO ELIMINATE THE BUG(S) FOR THE WORLD!
YES-SIR!
ALL RIGHT!

SAFE JOURNEY.
("(I) RESPECTFULLY SEE YOU OFF")
IT'S ABOUT TO RAIN. NEXT TIME WE'LL DRINK AND TALK ABOUT THE WORLD AGAIN!
RAIN SFX

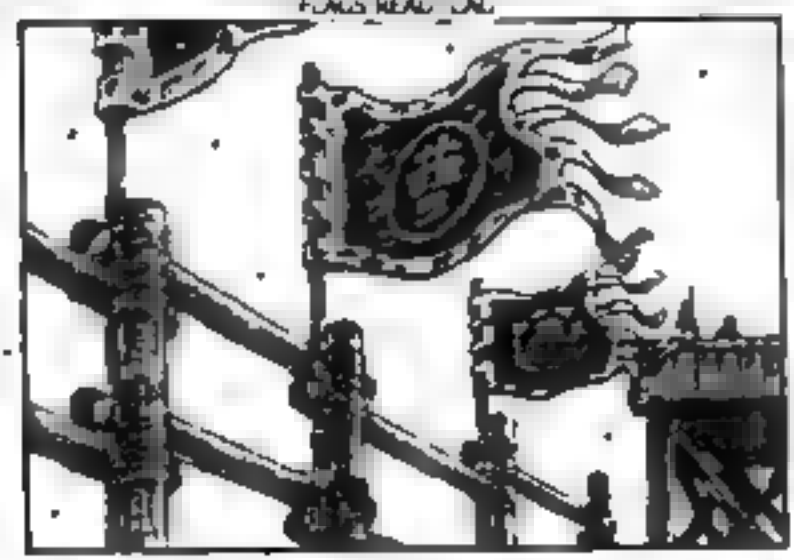
WHAT? CAO CAO WAS HERE? THEN...
DON'T WORRY, OUR LORD IS FINE.
THE TEST IS OVER.
ZI LONG WAS RIGHT; I WOULD GAIN BOTH FAME AND FORTUNE IF I STAYED HERE.
AS ANOTHER ANTI-HERO, HOW COULD I NOT KNOW CAO CAO'S INTENTION? THOUGH IT SURE WAS EASY TO GET ON HIS GOOD SIDE.
IN TERMS OF FAME I FIRST RECEIVED HIS MAJESTY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MY STATUS AS IMPERIAL UNCLE.

IN TERMS OF FORTUNE I OBTAINED AN ELITE ARMY FROM CAO CAO, PLUS A NICE PAY.
THEN I GET TO REPRESENT HAN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST YUAN SHU. THIS HAS ELEVATED MY REPUTATION TO A PREVIOUSLY UNREACHABLE HEIGHT.
AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS, BOTH HIS MAJESTY AND CAO CAO TREAT ME LIKE THEIR CONFIDANT
RETURNING TO XUZHOU, REDEPLOY, A STEP HIGHER THAN BEFORE!
WE'RE LIKE FISH IN THE WATER, MY BROTHERS.
LET'S GO WE'LL REMAIN ON THE OUTSIDE WITHOUT THIS CONSTANT VIGILANCE
("FISH ENTERING THE SEA")

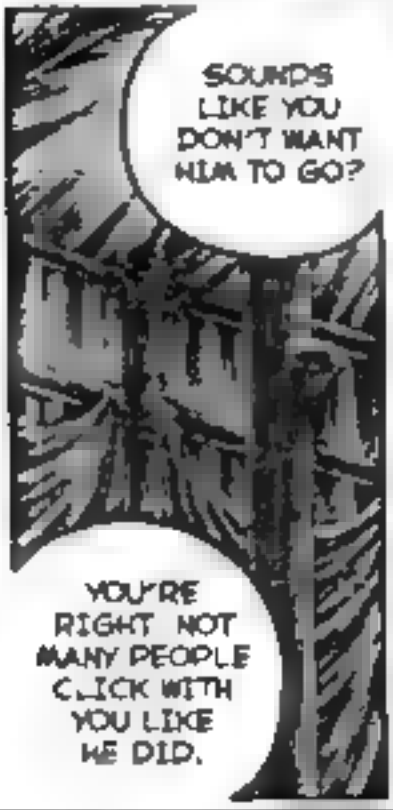
AND BIRDS
IN THE SKY.

A FISH, A BIRD, OR IS IT A BUG?

BUTTERFLY OR LOCUST; WHO WOULD KNOW?



SHEQUAN
CAO ARMY'S
STATIONING
POINT


SOUNDS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO GO?
YOU'RE RIGHT NOT MANY PEOPLE CLICK WITH YOU LIKE HE DID.

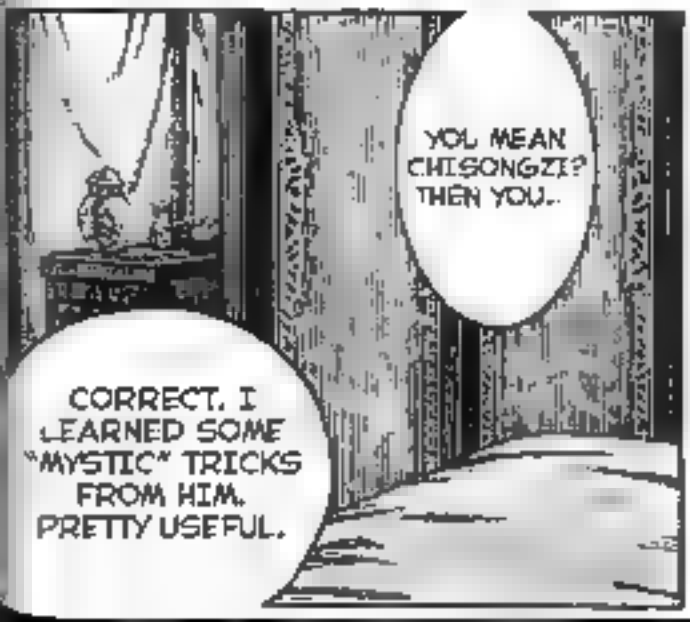
HE LEFT, EVEN AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS TOGE-THER.

CHAPTER 271 WARFARE TAKES RISKS

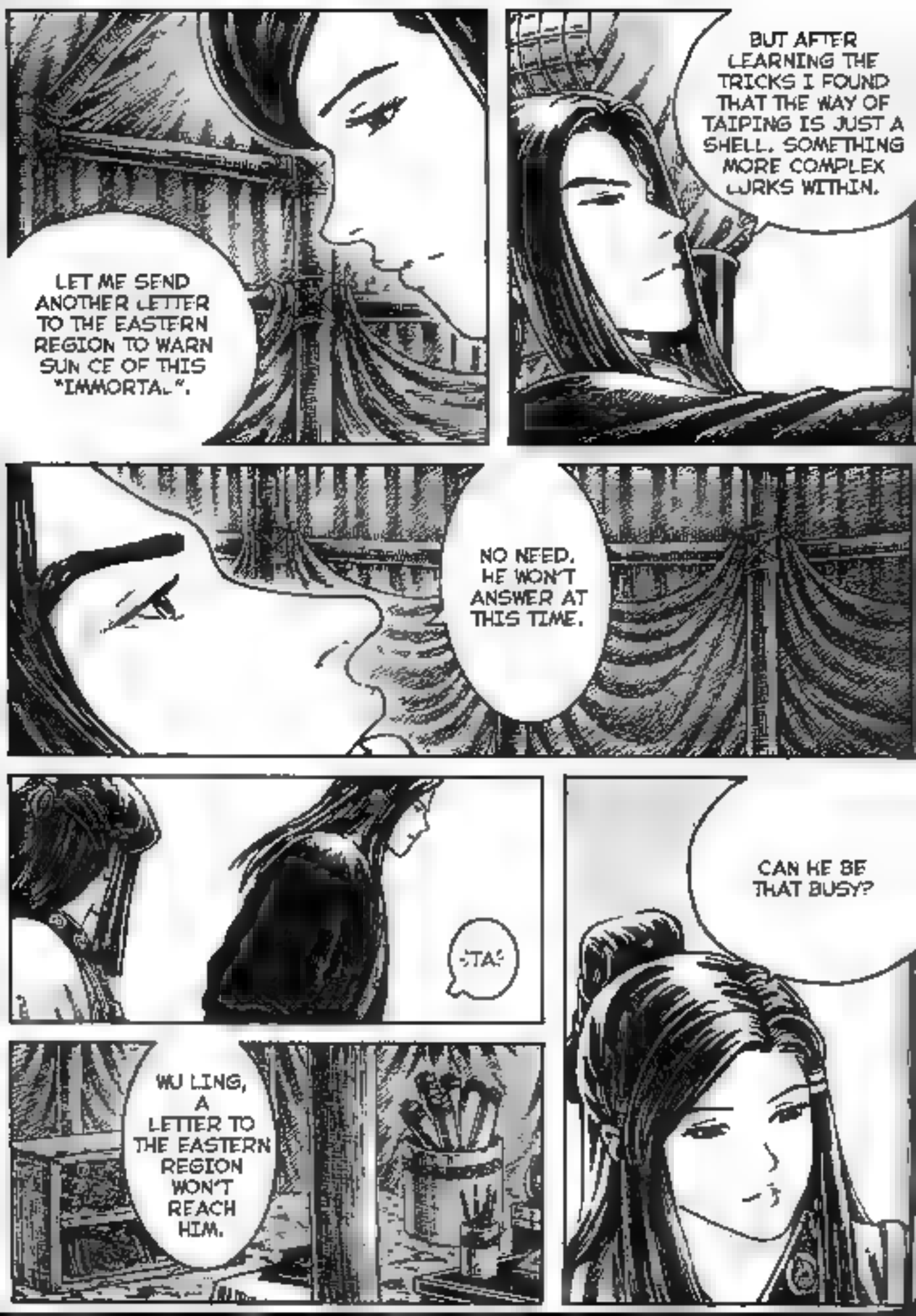
YES. NOW THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CLANS OF THE EASTERN REGION, LED BY THE QIAO FAMILY, HAVE ALL SUBMITTED TO THE SUN FAMILY.
YOU MEAN HOW WE ALWAYS TARGET BUSINESSMEN?
AND THE TWO QIAO DAUGHTERS HAVE "UNFORTUNATELY" ENDED UP WITH SUN CE AND ZHOU YU.
HE DID WELL IN ESTABLISHING THE RELATION. AS FOR THAT IMMORTAL FROM LANGYE...
ZHONG MOU'S TACTIC WAS JUST LIKE HOW YOU CRUDELY MARRIED ME.
YOU MEAN YU JI?
IT'S STRANGE. SUN CE DIDN'T TAKE HIM OUT, BUT RECRUITED HIM INSTEAD.

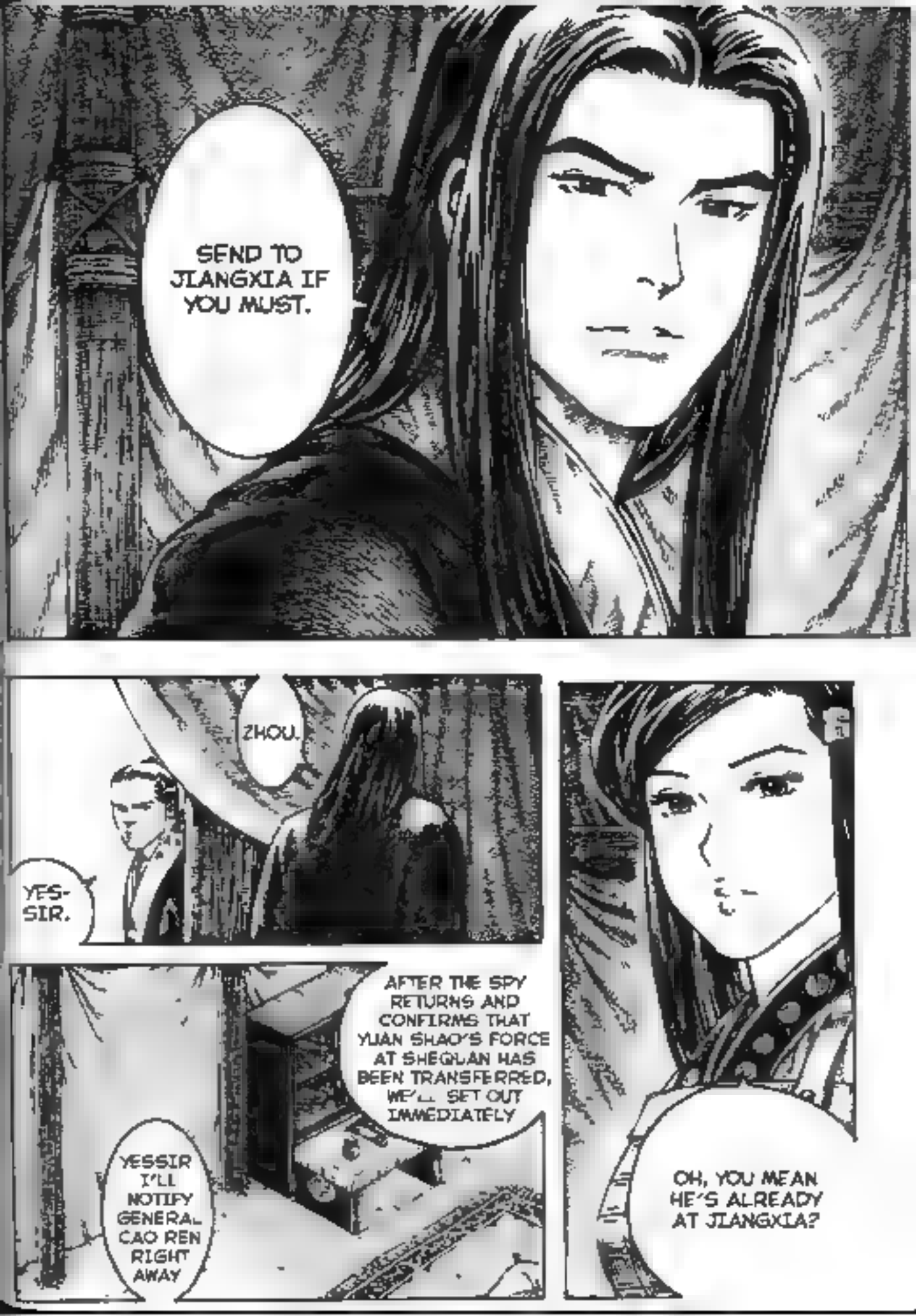
YU JI IS ALSO GOOD AT MIND GAMES. YOU CAN TELL WHAT HE'S UP TO WHEN HE PULLS BACK THE REVOLTING CIVILIANS.

WU LING, REMEMBER HOW I LIKE TO PLAY CELESTIAL BEINGS?
YOU SURE KNOW THIS YU JI. CAN IT BE...

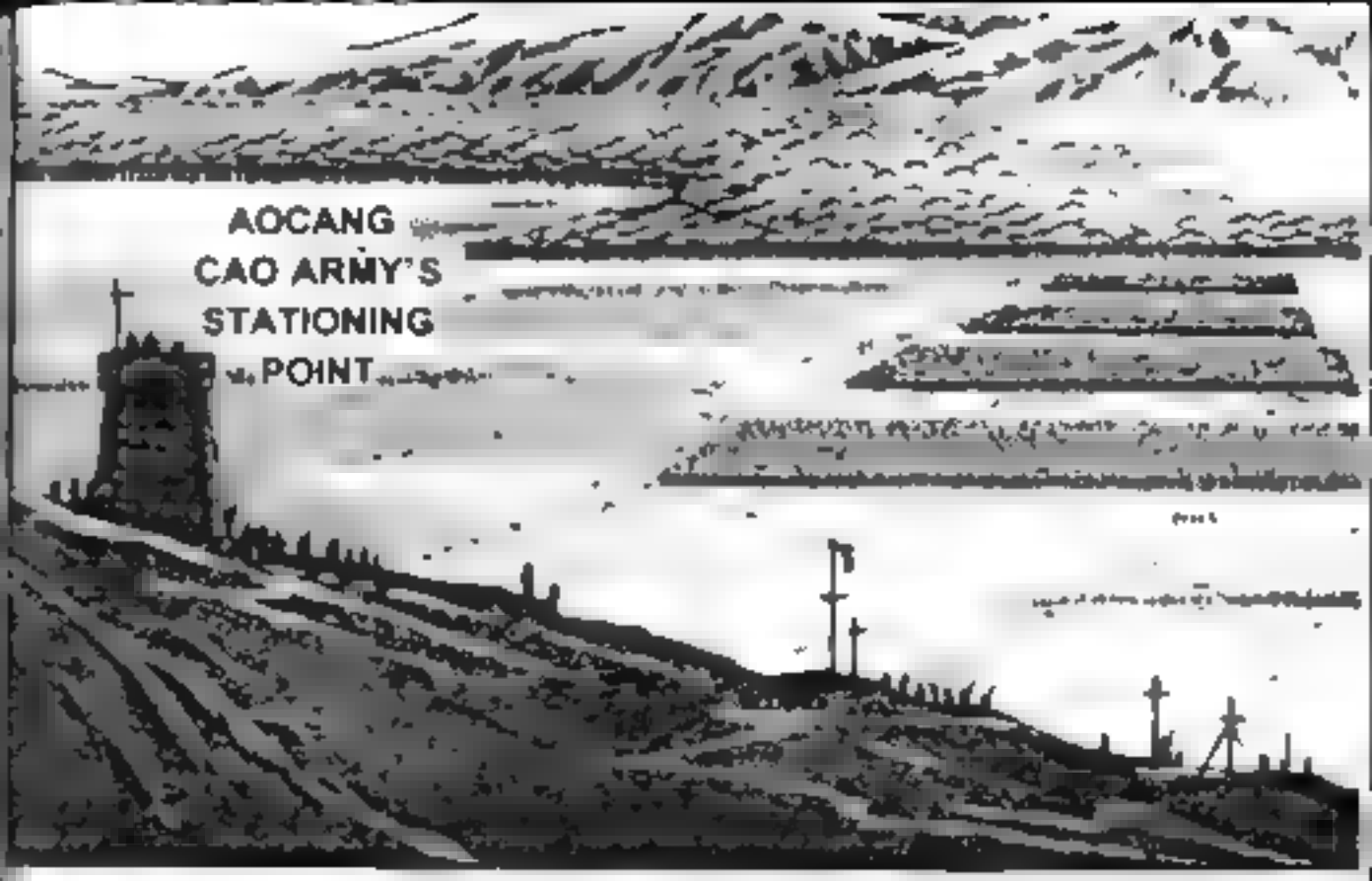

CORRECT. I LEARNED SOME "MYSTIC" TRICKS FROM HIM. PRETTY USEFUL.
YOU MEAN CHISONGZI? THEN YOU..

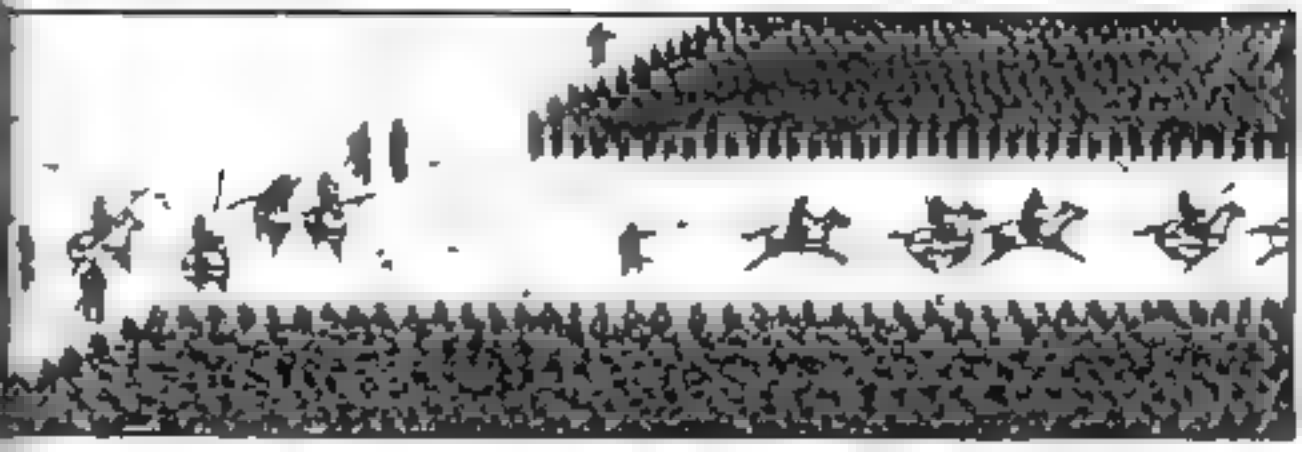
I HAVE ALWAYS SAID SUN CE IS A SMART MAN. HE HAS HIS REASONS FOR KEEPING YU JI ALIVE.


LET ME SEND ANOTHER LETTER TO THE EASTERN REGION TO WARN SUN CE OF THIS "IMMORTAL".
BUT AFTER LEARNING THE TRICKS I FOUND THAT THE WAY OF TAIPING IS JUST A SHELL. SOMETHING MORE COMPLEX LURKS WITHIN.
NO NEED. HE WON'T ANSWER AT THIS TIME.
CAN HE BE THAT BUSY?
STA!
WU LING, A LETTER TO THE EASTERN REGION WON'T REACH HIM.

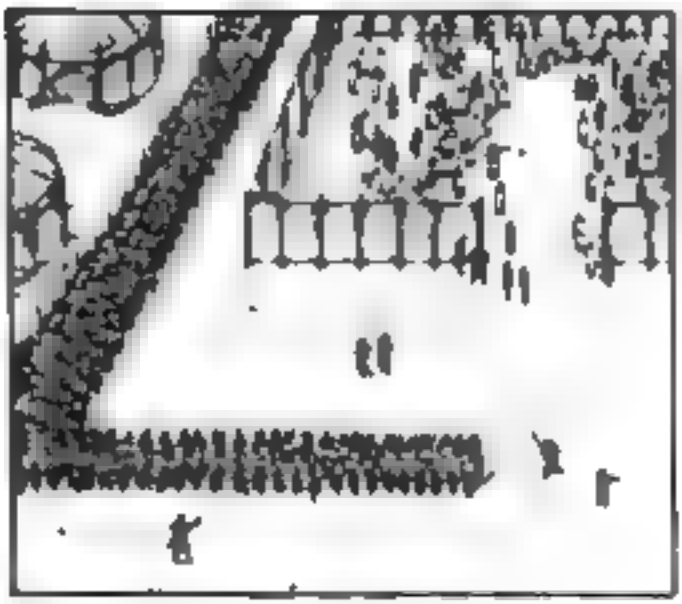

SEND TO JIANGXIA IF YOU MUST.
ZHOU.
YES-SIR.
AFTER THE SPY RETURNS AND CONFIRMS THAT YUAN SHAO'S FORCE AT SHEQUAN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED, WE'LL SET OUT IMMEDIATELY
YESSIR I'LL NOTIFY GENERAL CAO REN RIGHT AWAY
OH, YOU MEAN HE'S ALREADY AT JIANGXIA?

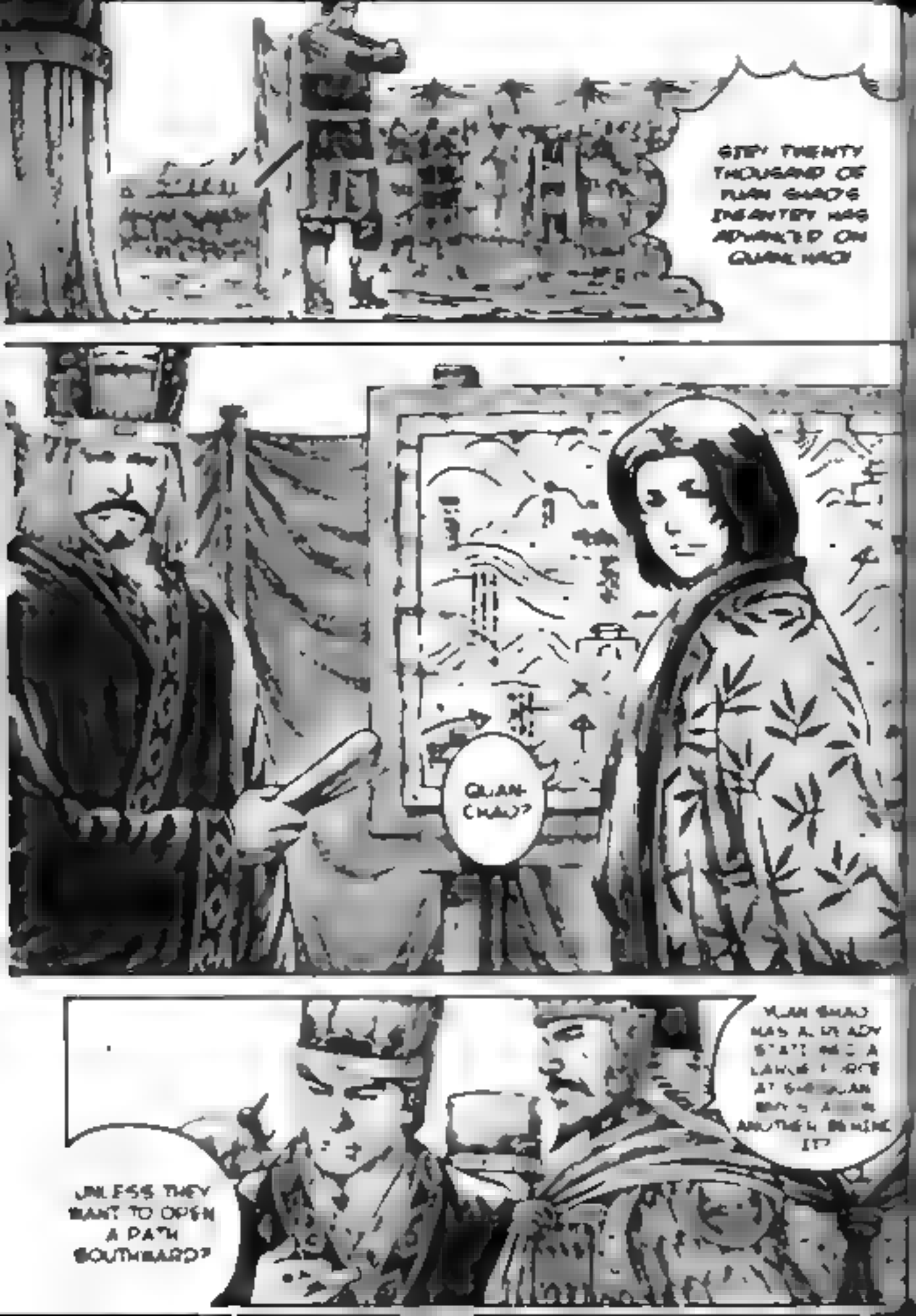
PEOPLE ARE ALL ABOUT SELF-INTEREST THESE DAYS.
TAKE RISKS TO ACHIEVE GOALS, AND I...
YU JI'S FOLLOWERS AMOUNT TO OVER TEN THOUSAND. WHY LET IT GO TO WASTE.
AND A PROFITEER LIKE YOU TAKES THE CAKE WHEN IT COMES TO THIS PRINCIPLE.
THE SMALL BOATS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. WHO WILL PAY?
CAO CAO, OF COURSE.

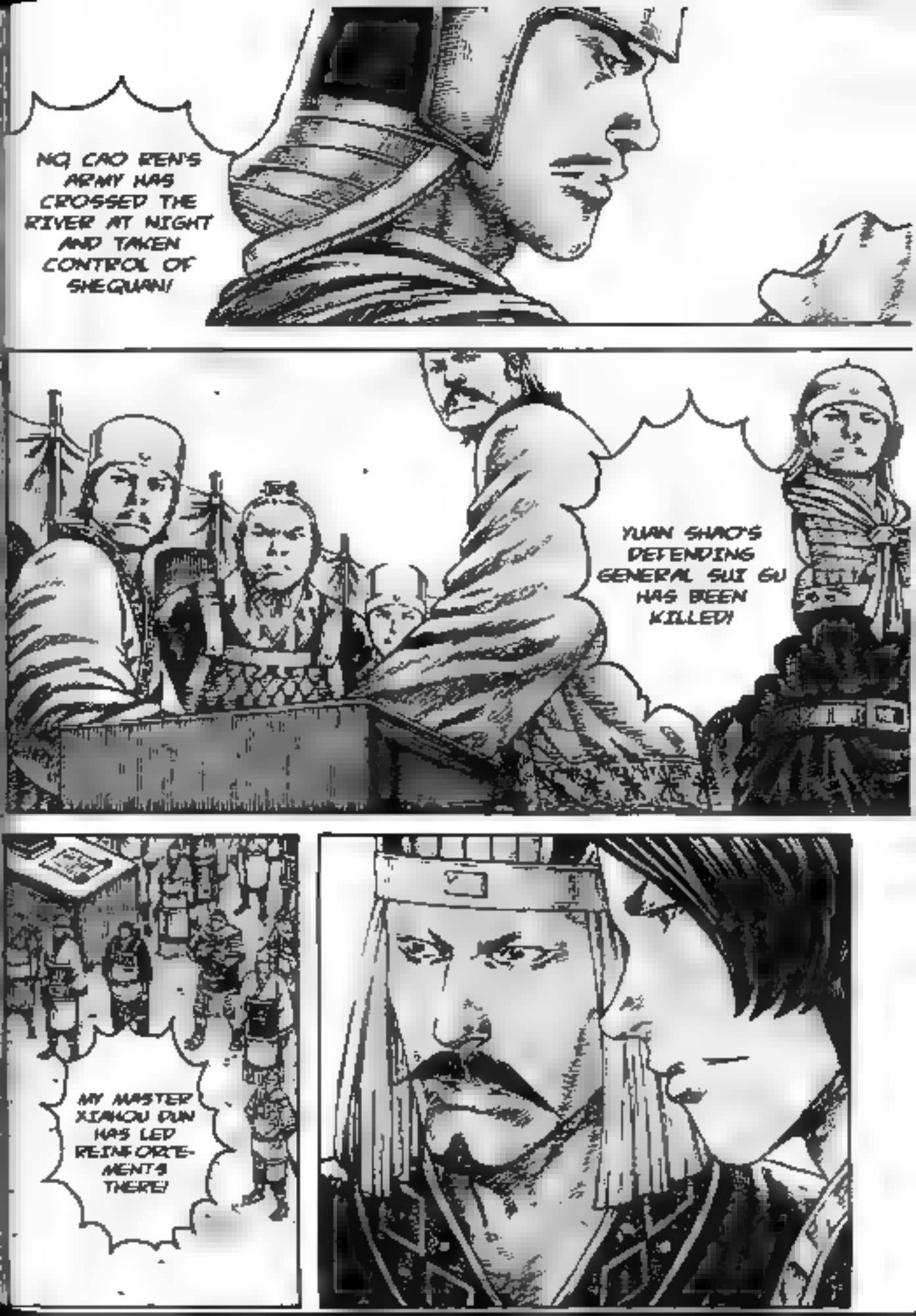

AOCANG
CAO ARMY'S
STATIONING
POINT



REPORT
FROM THE
FIFTH
BATTALION




SIXTY THOUSAND OF YUAN SHAO'S INFANTRY HAS ADVANCED ON QUAN HAO
QUAN CHAO?
YUAN SHAO HAS ALREADY START[illegible] A LARGE FORCE AT [illegible] AND IS [illegible] ANOTHER ARMY. IF
UNLESS THEY WANT TO OPEN A PATH SOUTHWARD?

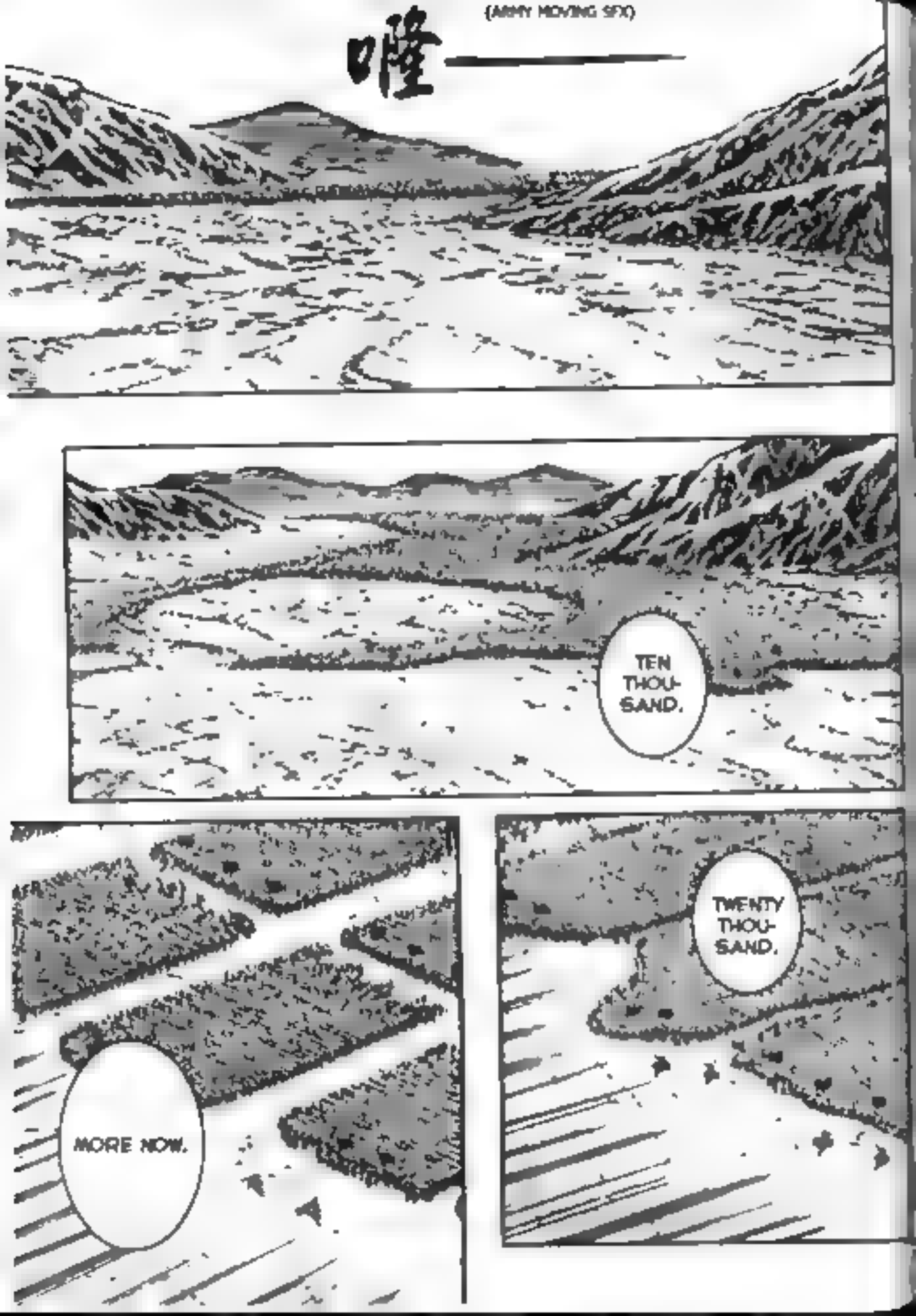

NO! CAO REN'S ARMY HAS CROSSED THE RIVER AT NIGHT AND TAKEN CONTROL OF SHEQUAN!
YUAN SHAO'S DEFENDING GENERAL SUI GU HAS BEEN KILLED!
MY MASTER XIAHOU DUN HAS LED REINFORCE-MENTS THERE!

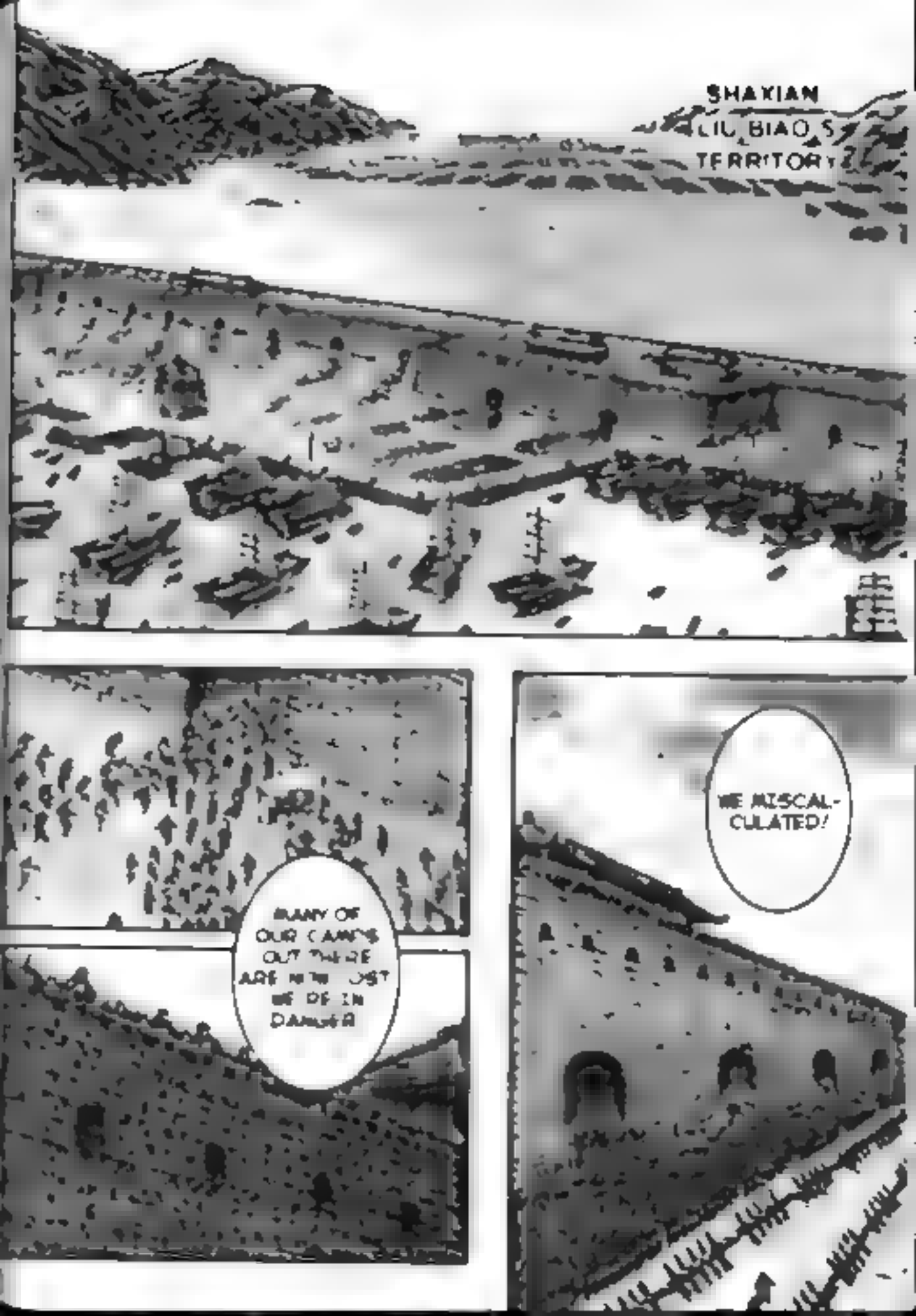
OUR BATTALION IS PREPARING TO OPEN A PATH NORTHWARD. PLEASE DISPATCH RATIONS AND EQUIPMENT!
GOODNESS. HE ALREADY PREPARED BOATS.
TOOK... TOOK CONTROL OF SHEQUAN.
LI DIAN.
HERE.
SIR!
THAT'S FAST. THE MESSENGER HASN'T EVEN ARRIVED YET

YES-SIR.
CAO REN AND XIAHOU DUN HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER. BE CAUTIOUS WHEN DELIVERING RATIONS AND SUPPLIES.
FORTU-NATELY I ALREADY PREPARED, OR I WOULD BE WAY BEHIND.
YES-SIR!
YOUR MASTER DID WELL. OUR ARMY HAS ACQUIRED THE RIGHT LOCATION FIRST.
YESSIR_ I'LL REPORT BACK IMMEDI-ATELY!
RATIONS OFFICER, COME WITH ME!
GO REPORT TO CAO REN THAT I'LL BRING SUPPLIES SOON.

UNLESS THE MAIN FORCE WAS SUDDENLY DIVERTED.
SHEQUAN HAD A STRONG DEPLOYMENT. HOW COULD CAO REN TAKE IT SO EASILY?
I GET IT. AFTER LIU BIAO'S RETREAT THEY THOUGHT WE WOULD TRANSFER OUR FORCES TO DEFEND ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER.
CORRECT. YUAN SHAO NOTICED THAT LIU BIAO RETREATED BACK TO JINGZHOU INSTEAD OF JOINING FORCES WITH HIM TO ATTACK JS.
SO, THAT BOY SUN CE HAS MADE HIS MOVE.
LIU BIAO'S RETREAT MEANS SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG AT JIANGXIA.

BEING ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT MOMENT OF MILITARY REDEPLOYMENT, THAT DECISION MAKER SURE IS WORTHY OF PRAISE.
LITTLE CONQUEROR MIGHT BE POWERFUL, BUT OUR MILITARY PRECISION BEATS HIS.
AS MILITARY ADVISORS YOU ALL MUST WORK HARDER,
OR SIMA YI WILL TAKE THE CREDIT AGAIN.

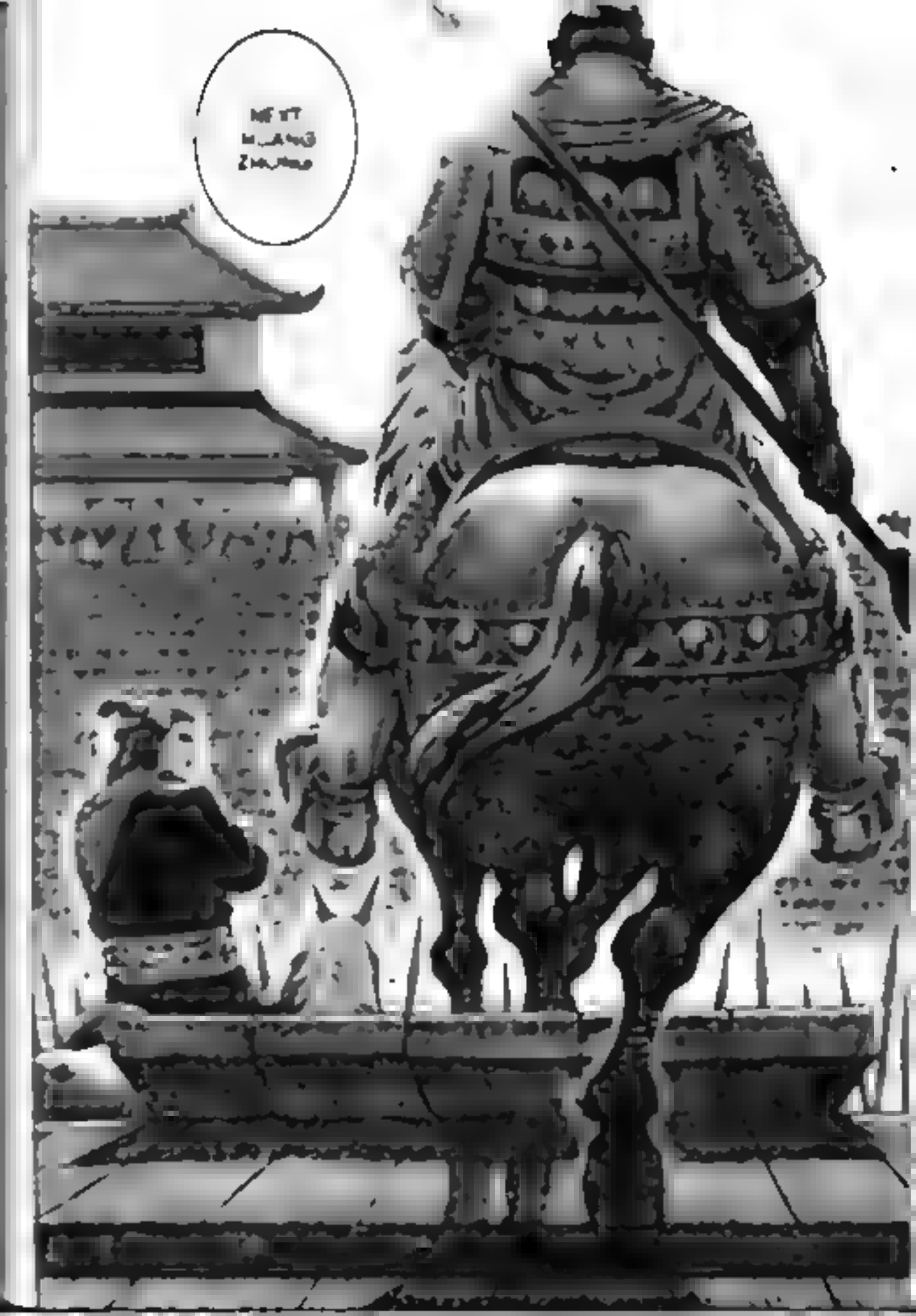

(ARMY MOVING SFX)
隆
TEN THOU-SAND.
TWENTY THOU-SAND.
MORE NOW.


SHAXIAN
LIU BIAO'S
TERRITORY
MANY OF OUR CAMPS OUT THERE ARE WITHOUT US WE'RE IN DANGER
WE MISCALCULATED!

SIR, OUR REQUESTED REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED.
YOUNG AND RECKLESS. THOSE CONSECUTIVE VICTORIES MUST HAVE JADED SUN CE. HE WILL UNDERESTIMATE US.
IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE COMMANDERS WHO ARE NOT WELL-KNOWN.
THIS BATTLE WILL TEST THEIR HUBRIS. TO MAKE SURE SUN CE DOESN'T TAKE CAUTION,
THE KID FROM THE SUN CLAN HAS GROWN (SOME) TEETH.
JIANGXIA'S GRAND ADMINISTRATOR
HUANG ZU

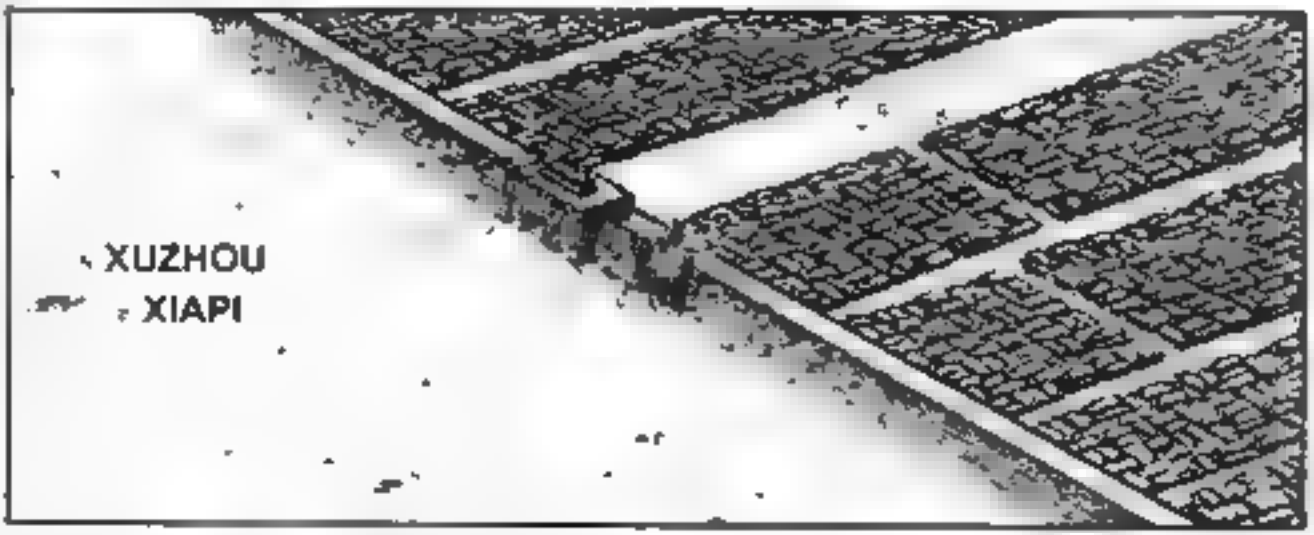
FIRST GAN NING.

AND YET, THEY MUST BE THE MOST SKILLED.



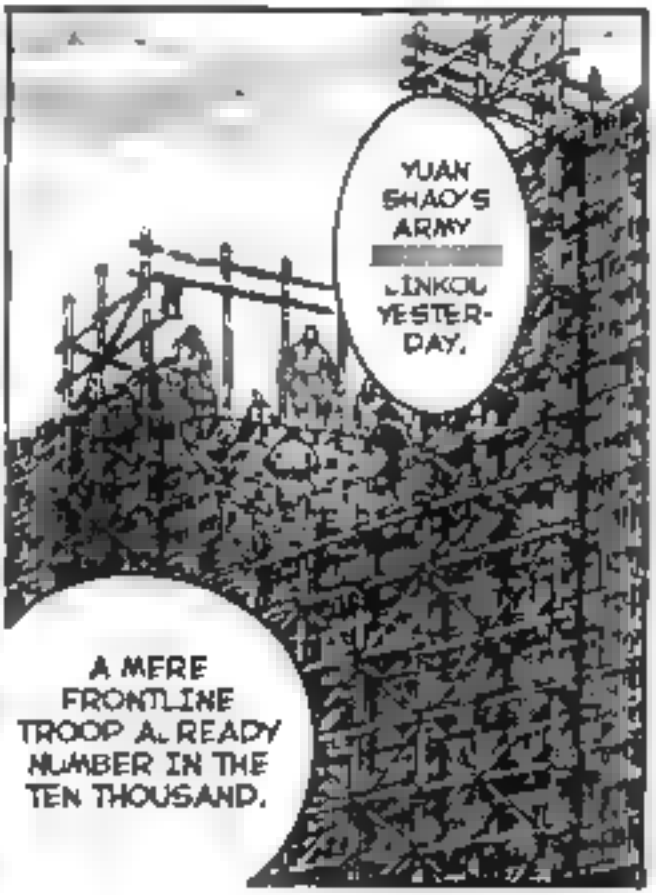
COMMANDER, GENERAL, OR A SOLDIER?
(OR "CHIEF, OFFICER, OR PAWN")

HEROES ONLY HOPE FOR RECOGNITION.

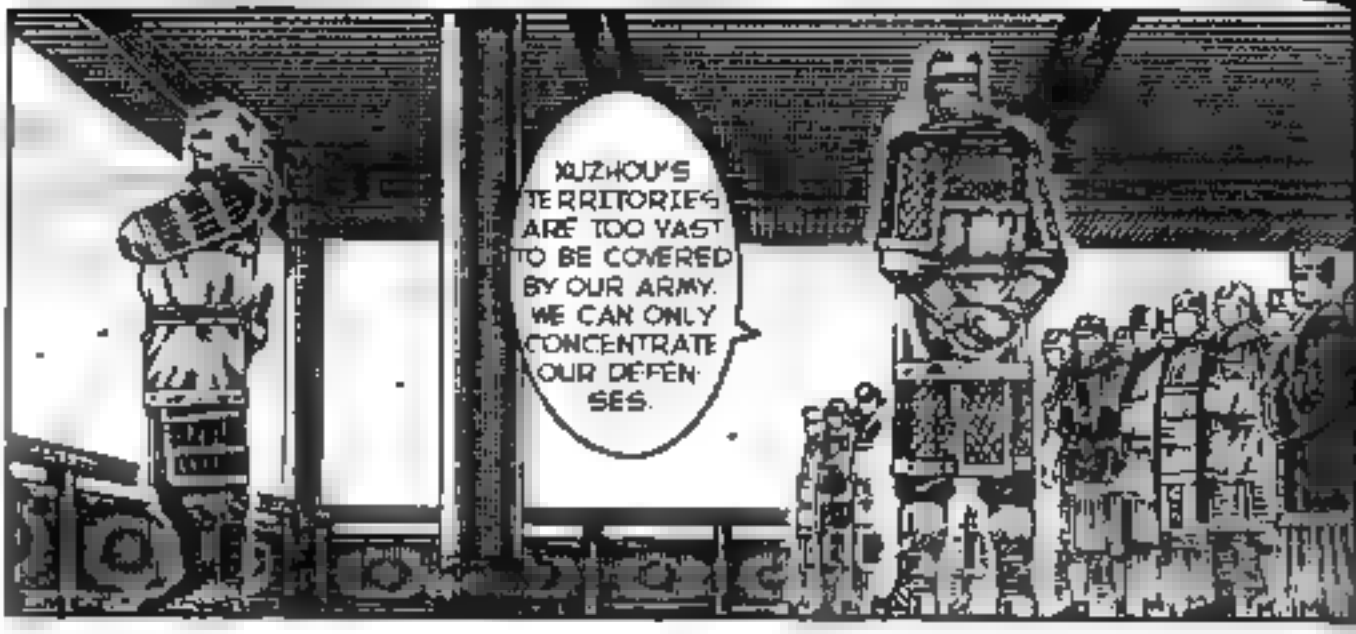

XUZHOU
XIAPI

EVEN JUAN CHENG'S FORCE IS FIFTY THOUSAND STRONG, AND INCREASING DAILY

LOOKS LIKE THOSE WHO WERE FIGHTING GONGSUN ZAN HAVE ALL RETURNED.


YUAN SHAO'S ARMY [redacted] JINKOU YESTERDAY.
A MERE FRONTLINE TROOP ALREADY NUMBER IN THE TEN THOUSAND.

CHAPTER 272 UNYIELDING
第二百七十二回
死守不關
XUZHOU'S COMMANDER IN DEFENSE
CHE ZHOU
JUST AS GUO JIA PREDICTED, YUAN SHAO'S OTHER TROOP WILL GO THROUGH QINGZHOU, HEADING SOUTHWARD TO ATTACK XUZHOU.


XUZHOU'S TERRITORIES ARE TOO VAST TO BE COVERED BY OUR ARMY. WE CAN ONLY CONCENTRATE OUR DEFENSES.

THIS WAY THE YUAN ARMY WILL HAVE TO LEAVE BEHIND SOME MEN TO HOLD THOSE LOCATIONS, AND WE CAN ALSO PROTECT THE IMPORTANT CITIES OF XUZHOU.

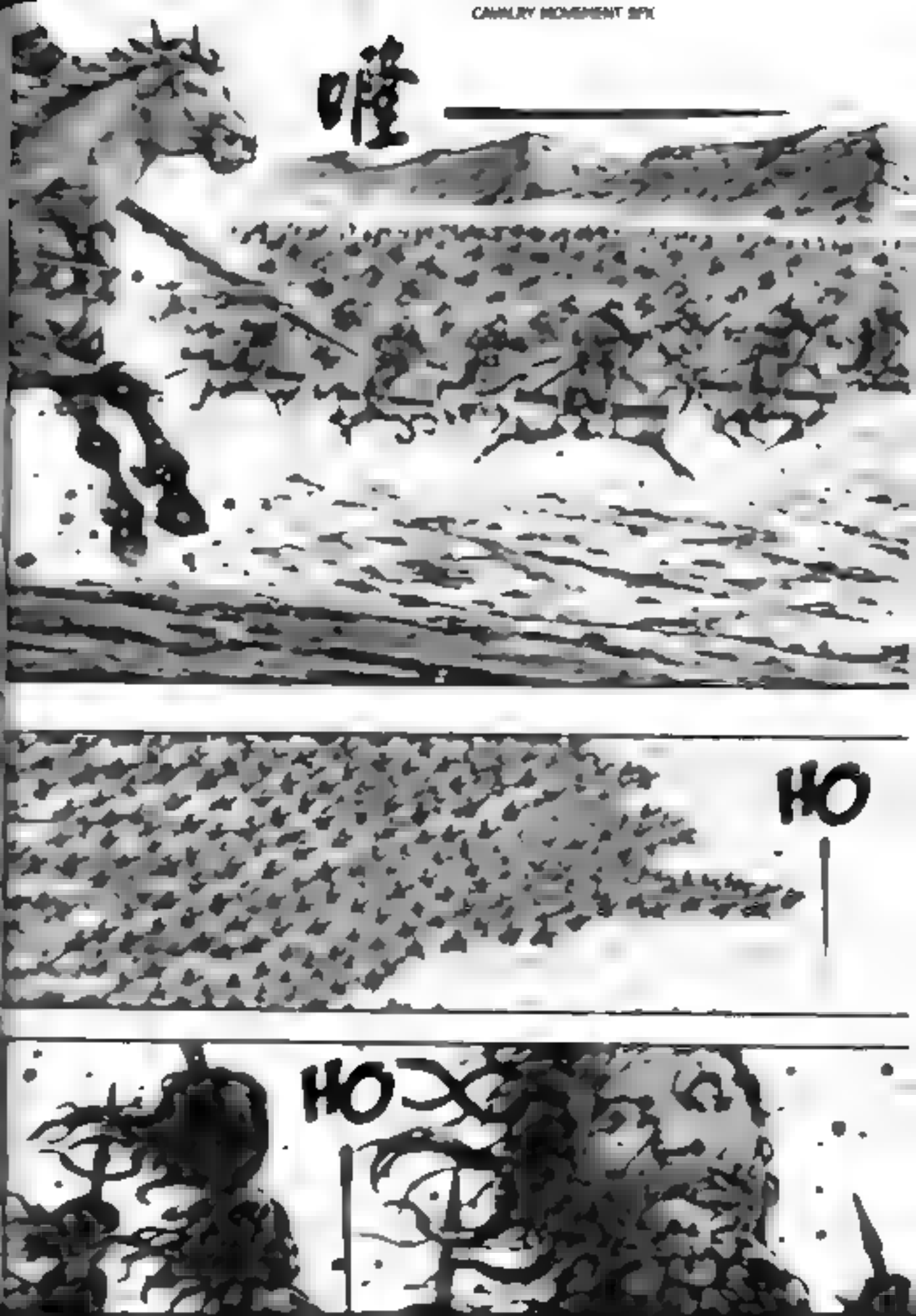
MY ARMY HAS SYSTEMATICALLY PULLED OUT OF THE STATIONING POINTS AND GATHERED AT XIAPI FOR THE SHOWDOWN.
GENERAL OF THE HIDDEN WAVES
CHEN DENG

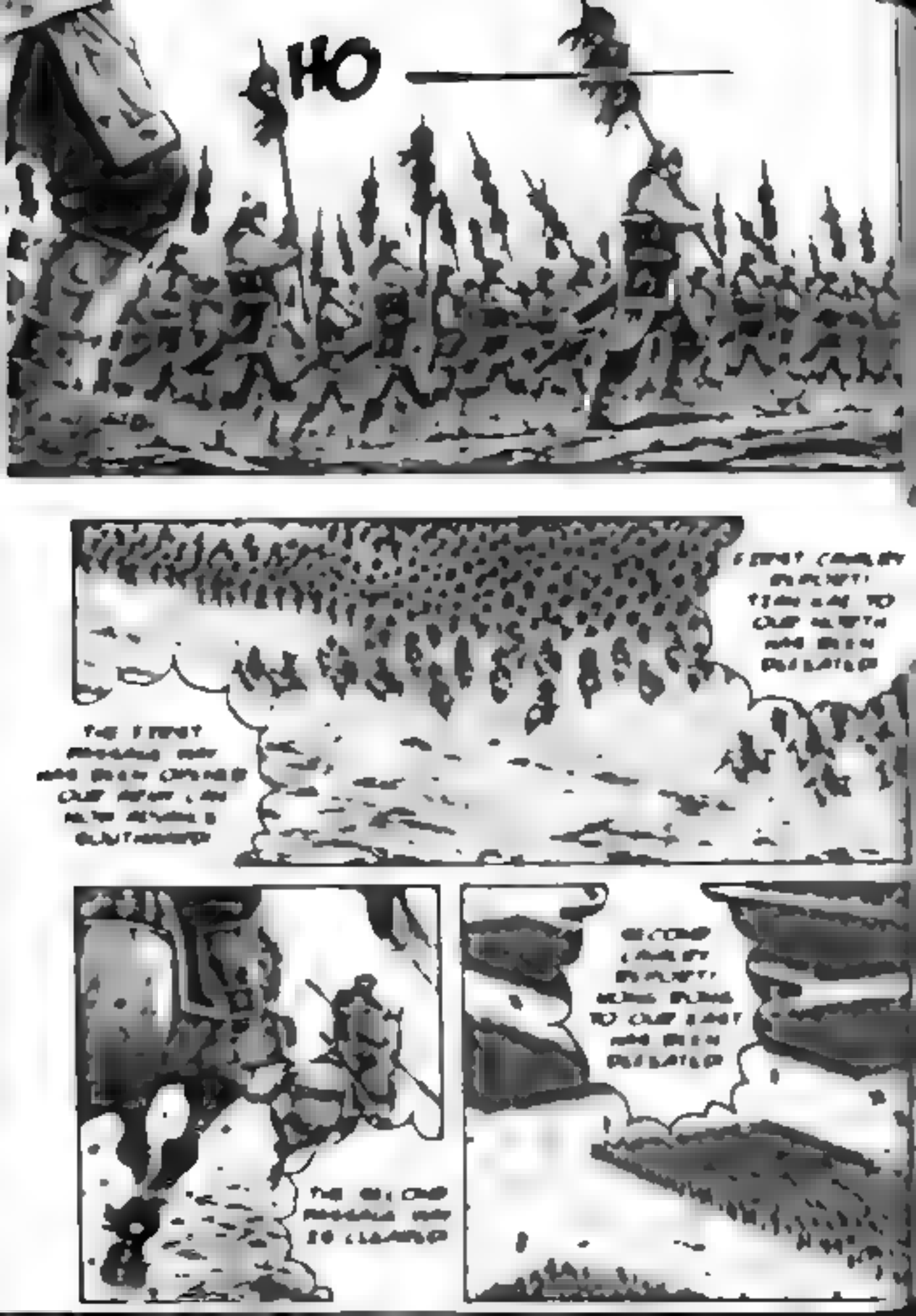
I'M ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT OTHER ARMY.

AS LONG AS WE FOLLOW ADVISOR GUO'S PLAN, YUAN SHAO WILL ADVANCE NO FURTHER THAN XIAPI.

THOUGH BAD NEWS ARRIVED FIRST...
IMPERIAL UNCLE LIU BEI HAS ACCEPTED THE ORDER TO HEAD TO BATTLE WITH TEN THOUSAND ELITES. HE WILL KEEP YUAN SHU IN CHECK IF HE USES HIS RESOURCE PROPERLY.
YUAN CLAN'S QINGZHOU DIVISION WAS VICTORIOUS FIRST ONE BY ONE THE WARLORDS UP NORTH HAVE LOST TO THEM.
RIGHT. THEIR PRECISE DEPLOYMENT AND SPEEDY PACE WAS TOO HARD TO PREPARE AGAINST.
THEY COULDN'T RETREAT FAST ENOUGH?

I THINK THE MAN IN CHARGE MUST BE ONE OF THE OLD FAMILIES OF MANCHURIAN DESCENT
AND HIS TROOP MUST BE THE BEST CAVALRY IN THE YUAN CLAN
BEWARE EVERYONE AGAINST YUAN CLAN'S FIRST STRIKE LOSING IS NOT AN OPTION.


唯
HO
HO


HO

(SPECIFICALLY, IT IS CALLING, "ELDEST GONG-ZI" OR "ELDEST SON OF (MY) MASTER")

RAN JIANG

QIAO SONG

JIAN QIU

AT YOUR SERVICE, YOUNG MASTER!

ZHANG YI

YUAN SHAO'S COMMANDER WHO CONQUERS THE SOUTH

CHUNYU QIONG

jon023

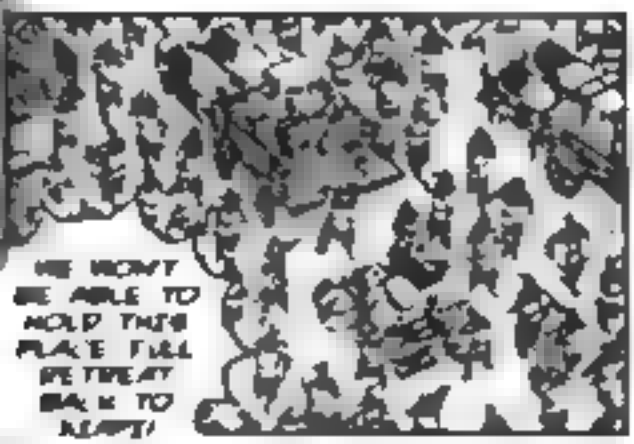
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
YUAN CLAN'S CHIEF CONTROLLER OF THE SOUTHERN CONQUERING FORCE, YUAN SHAO'S ELDEST SON
YUAN TAN
TWO EASTERN KINGDOMS IN TWO DAYS.

THE BRAVERY YOU ALL DISPLAYED HAS OVERSHADOWED THE HUMILIATION THAT WAS THE UNINTENTIONAL LOSS OF SHEQUAN.
WITH THIS SWEEPING VICTORY OUR MOMENTUM IS UNSTOPPABLE. ALL THE NEARBY WARLORDS HAVE SUBMITTED TO US.
AS YUAN CLAN'S ELITE FORCE WE MUST TAKE CHARGE IN BATTLE EVEN MORE.
IF WE TAKE XUZHOU WE'LL HAVE CAO CAO FIRMLY LOCKED IN PLACE.
LET'S GO. THE ENTIRE YUAN CLAN IS WATCHING.

EVERYONE, FORWARD!
HO
INFANTRY, FORWARD!
MAIN CAVALRY, FORWARD!
LADY ZHEN... IS ALSO WATCHING.

TARGET— XIAPI!
IN MAY OF 199 A.D., YUAN TAN LED A FORCE SOUTHWARD, DEFEATING TIAN KAI, KONG RONG AND SUCH MINISTERS. THEIR MOMENTUM WAS HIGH, HEADING STRAIGHT FOR XIAPI

OUTSKIRTS OF XIAPI,
CAO CAMP


WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THIS PLACE! WE RETREAT BACK TO XIAPI!

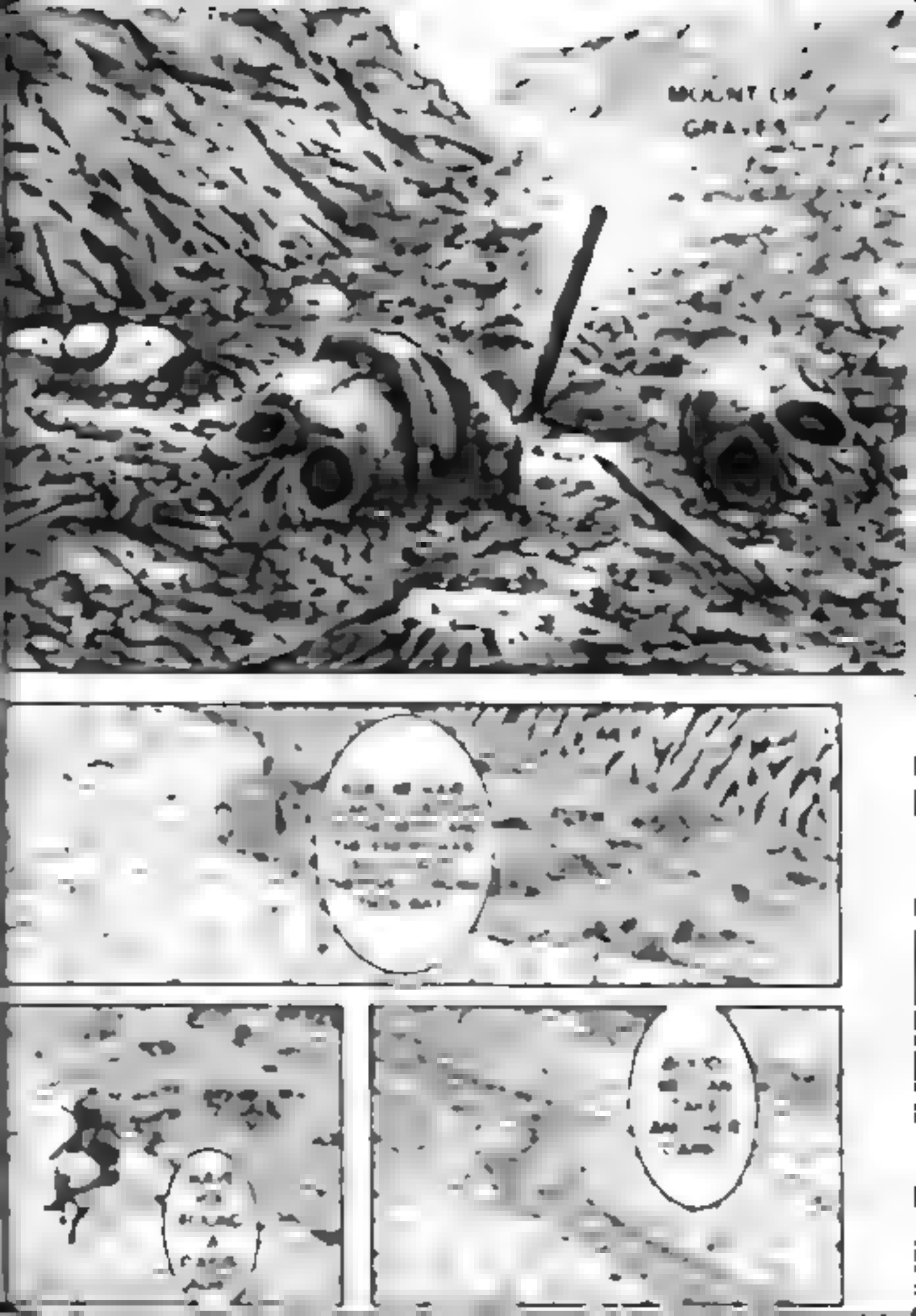
WE MUST HURRY! HURRY!

YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CAME FASTER THAN PREDICTED! PACK UP QUICKLY!

YESSIR, YUAN CLAN'S VANGUARD FORCE AMBUSHED THEM DURING THEIR NIGHTTIME WITHDRAW. THE FIRST CAMP MASTER WAS QUICKLY FINISHED OFF
OUR FIRST CAMP WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE?
YES. THEY MUST HAVE DISGUISED THEMSELVES AS CIVILIANS AND LAID IN WAITING AT XUZHOU.
MASTER, IF THE ENEMY CAN MAKE SUCH DEPLOY-MENT, THEY MUST HAVE...
THE COMMANDER OF THAT YUAN ARMY IS NO EASY FOE.
OUR MORALE IS REALLY TAKING A HIT THIS TIME.
HUANG SONG IS NO PAPER TIGER TO HAVE MADE IT TO FIRST CAMP MASTER'S POSITION. HE DIED JUST LIKE THAT.

SIR! ENEMY SPOTTED TO OUR WEST!
MUST BE THAT GUY...
MASTER, THIS MAN TASTED MARROW AND WANTS TO TAKE OUT ANOTHER CAMP I FEAR THAT HE MAY HAVE BLOCKED OUR RETREAT PATH TOO
HAVE ALL OF OUR MEN WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA?
I THINK IF THEY WERE ALREADY IN XUZHOU THEY MUST BE INFANTRY. SO THEY CAN'T MOVE VERY FAST.
WE'LL MAKE IT BACK IF WE GO AROUND THE EAST ROUTE.

THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS THAT GUY AT THE MASS GRAVES...
YOU MEAN THAT FRIEND OF CHEN DENG...?
FORGET IT. CRAZY PERSON DO CRAZY THINGS. IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.
EAST OF XUZHOU



FIRST MASTER'S ARMY WILL CATCH UP WITH US SOON AS THE VANGUARD FORCE WE CAN'T BLOCK HIS PATH
THIS WAY GENERAL BOTH MEN AND HORSES CAN PASS THROUGH HERE
THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN THERE BE CAREFUL HE MIGHT BE A SCOUT
WAIT, A PERSON

HALT!
HA...
DON'T WORRY HE'S JUST A GRAVEDIGGER

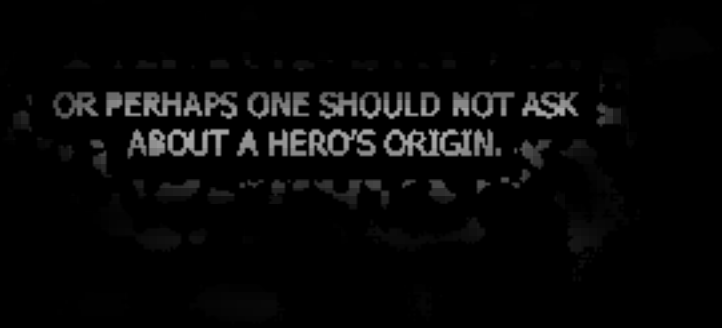
MORE FOR YOU TO STEAL
TA
SUCH A STRONG KILLING AURA
GEN ERAL

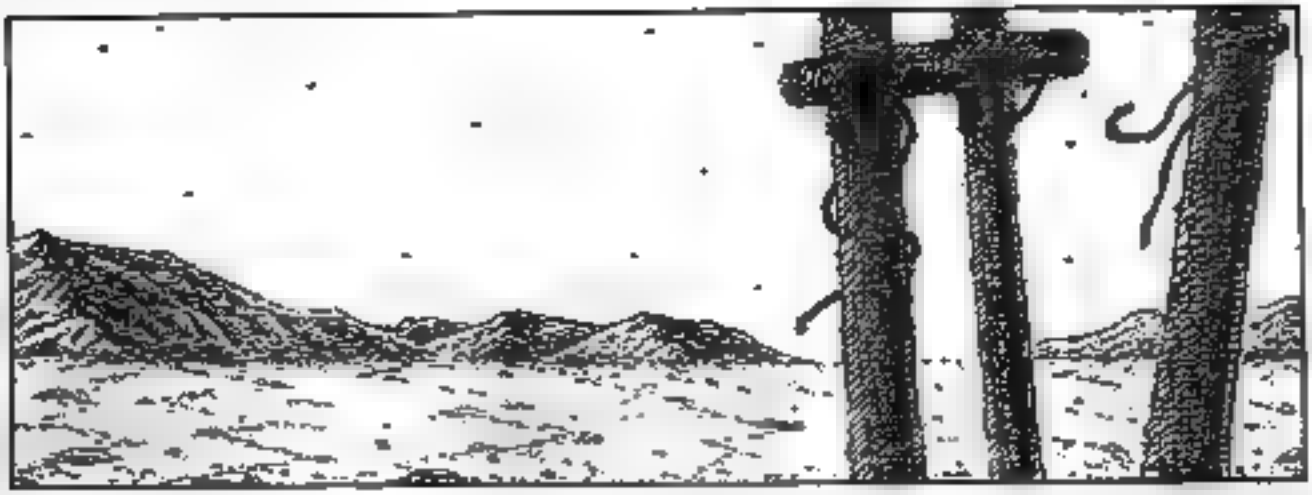
HOLD IT THERE, BOY.
GENERAL OF THE FRONT WHO CONQUERS THE SOUTH
HE ZHI
FROM DUSK TO DAWN,
I AM DIGGING.
REACHING HERE JUST

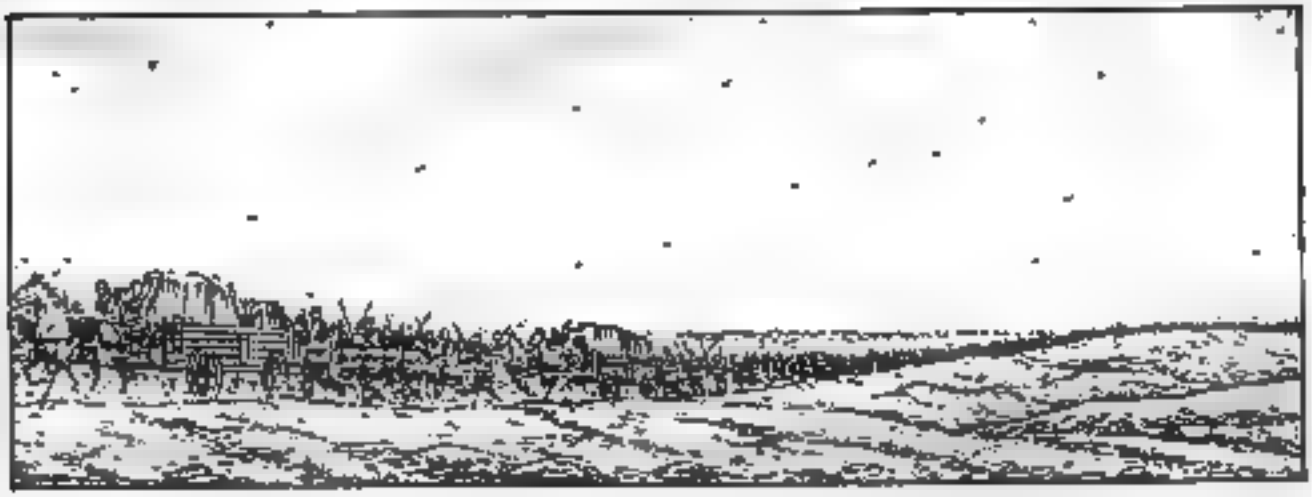
I ONLY WANT TO FIND THE REMAINS OF MY DEAREST ONE.
PLEASE TAKE A DETOUR, SIR.
THE SOIL IN THESE PARTS ARE LOOSE IF AN ARMY TREAD THROUGH IT THE BONES IN THE MUD WILL BE A WRECK.
MY YOUNG MASTER'S ARMY IS ON ITS WAY HERE. THEY DON'T WANT A ROADBLOCK EITHER.
LET ME SAY IT AGAIN, GO AROUND IF YOU WANT TO PASS.
I'M NOT YIELDING THIS PATH TO YOU.
STOP LOOKING. I'LL SEND YOU TO SEE YOUR DEAREST ONE.

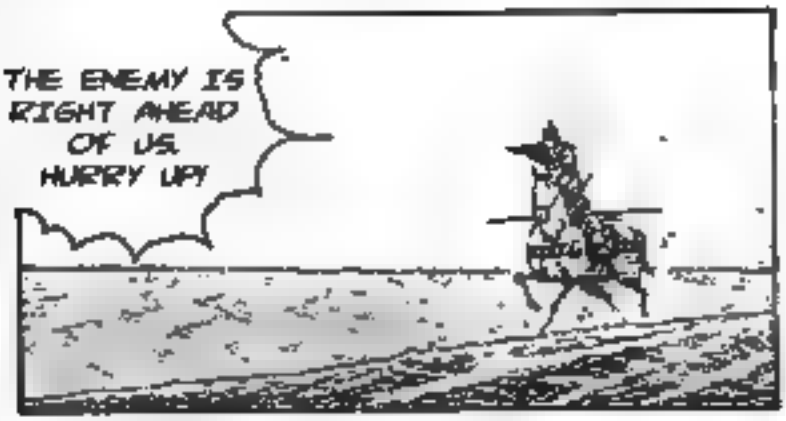
I'M IN A VERY SHITTY MOOD.

SCRAM!


OR PERHAPS ONE SHOULD NOT ASK
ABOUT A HERO'S ORIGIN.






THE ENEMY IS RIGHT AHEAD OF US. HURRY UP!

BUT THEY'VE GOT US...

SHIT, THEY'RE COMING FROM THE EAST

CHAPTER 273 ADDING OIL TO THE FIRE

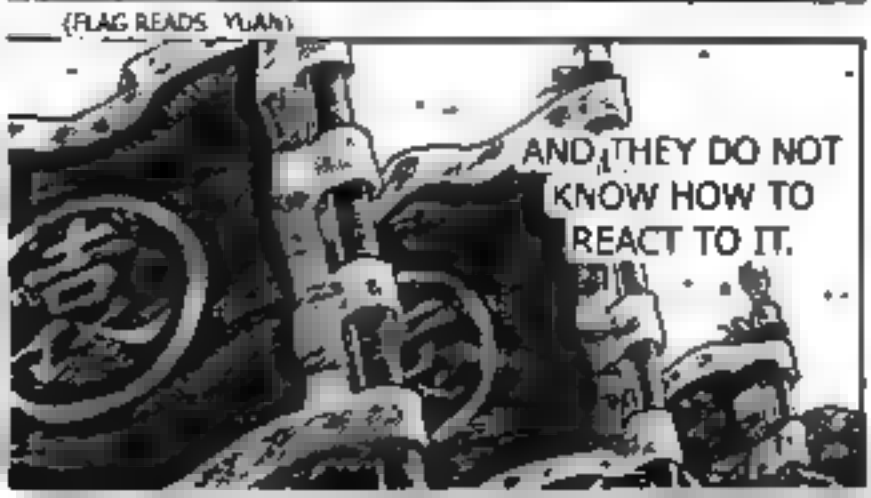
第二百七十三回 火上加油

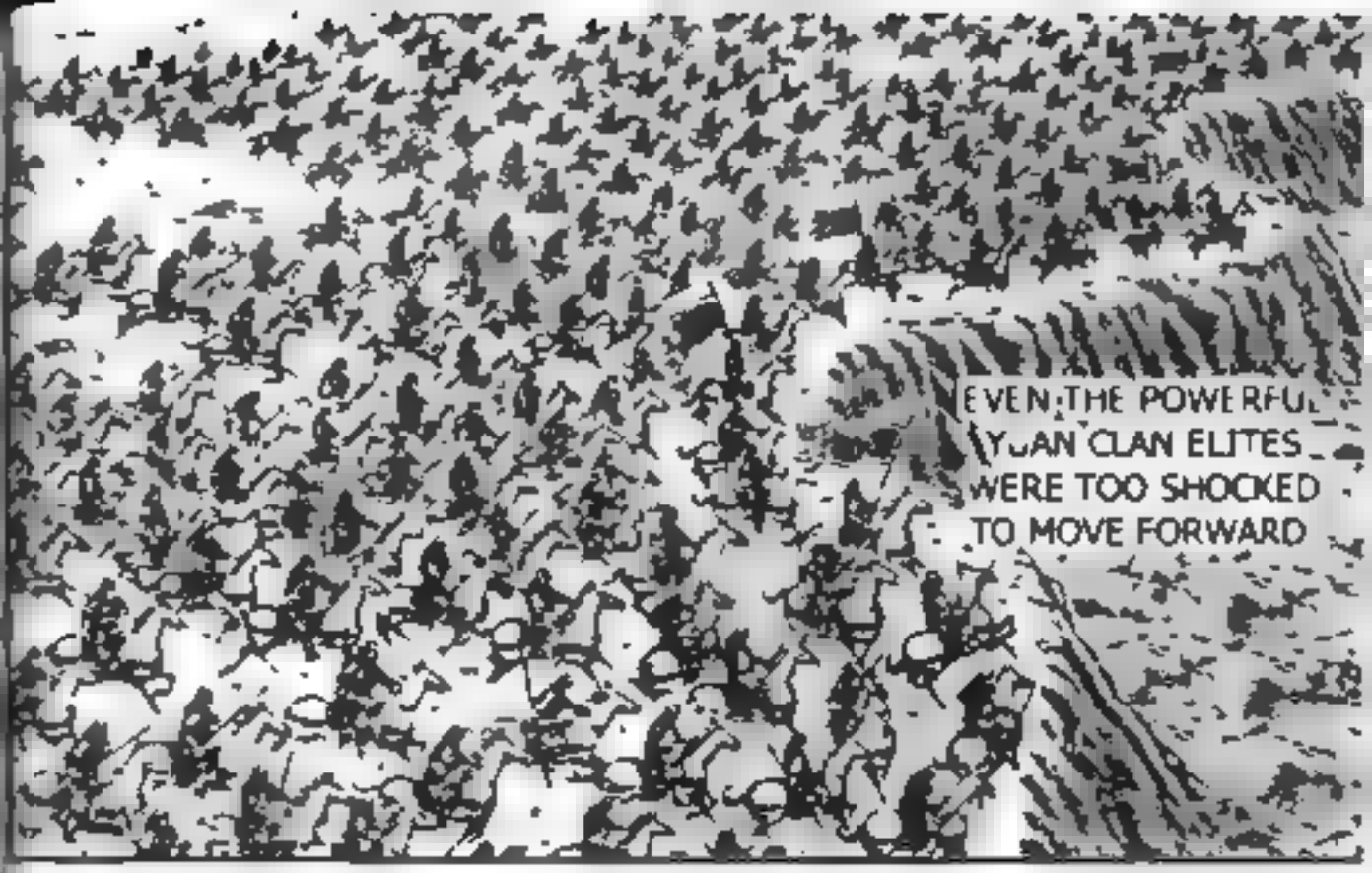
NO THOSE CAN'T LAST THIS LONG.
THOSE CANALS ADVISOR GUO SET UP TO ELIMINAT [illegible] ARE TAKING EFFECT.

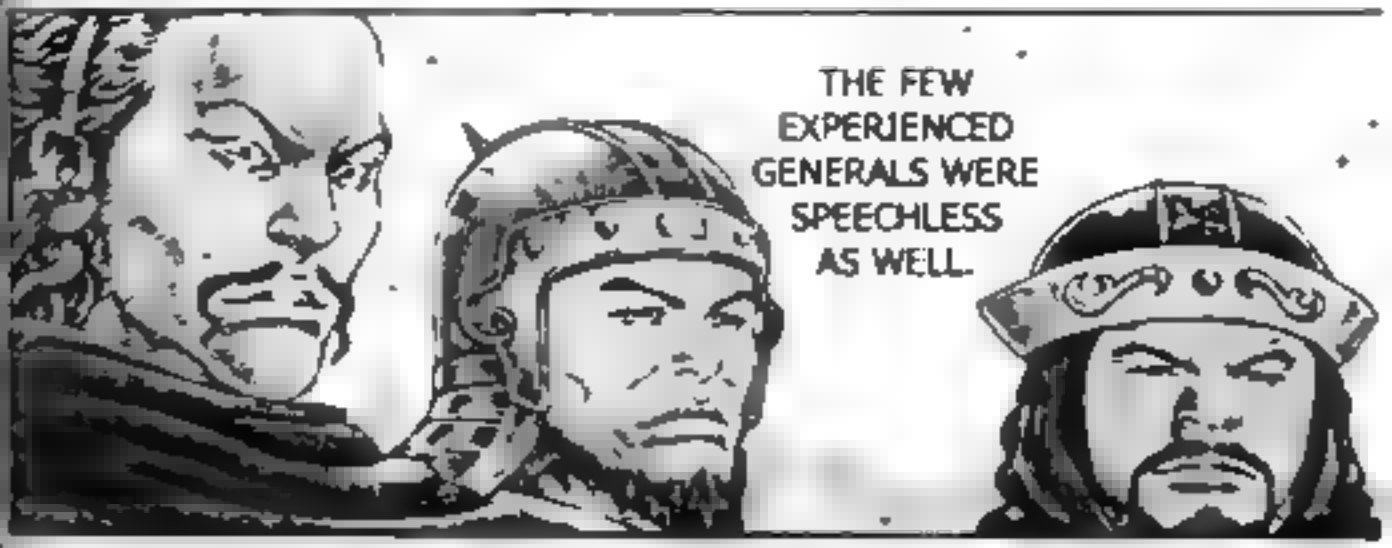
FORGET IT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE DURING THIS UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS.

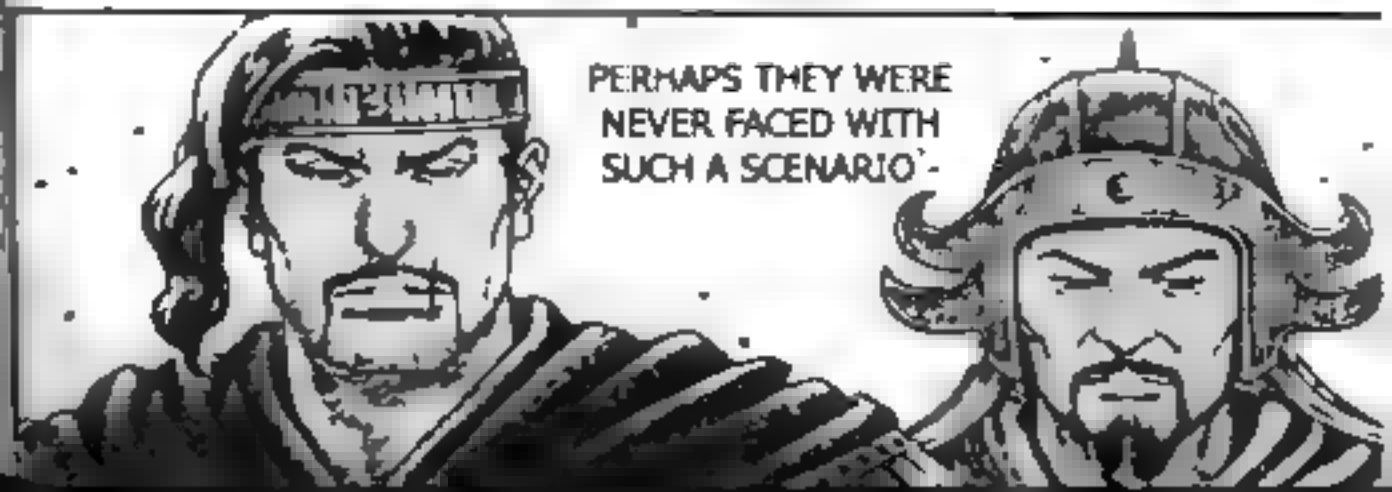
THE ENEMY IS TRAVELING LIGHT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE IF THEY CROSS OVER THE DITCHES)

AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS

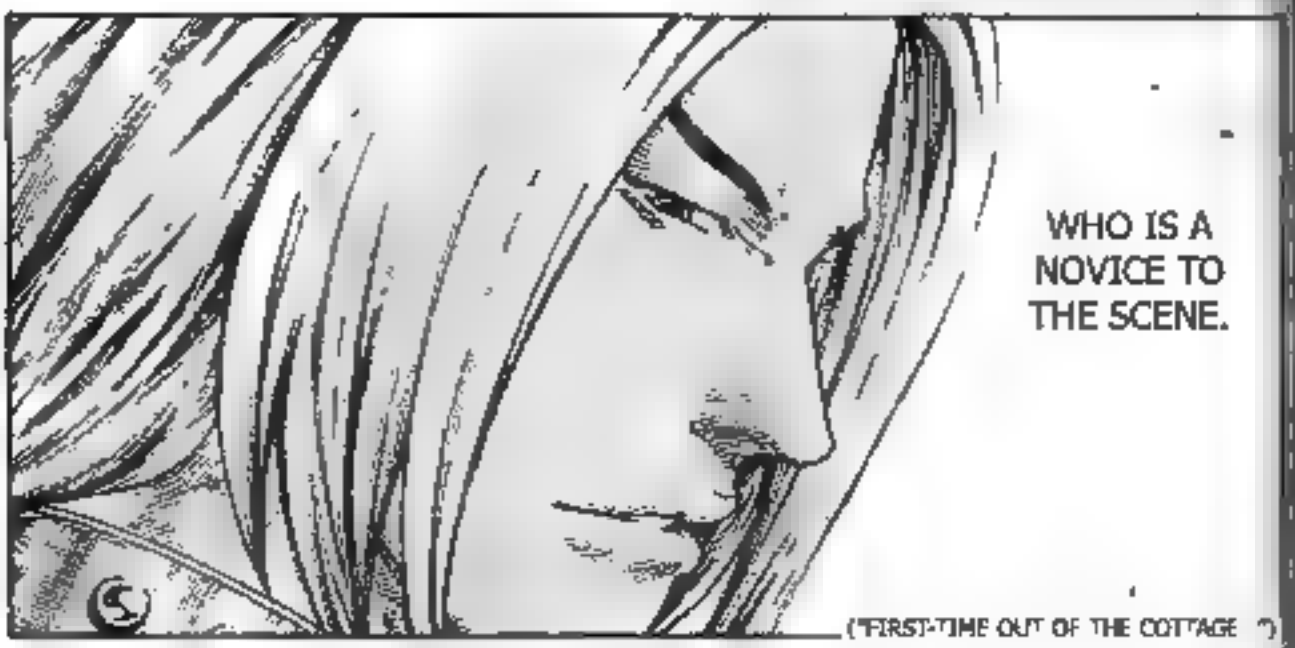

(FLAG READS YUAN)
AND THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO REACT TO IT.


EVEN THE POWERFUL
YUAN CLAN ELITES
WERE TOO SHOCKED
TO MOVE FORWARD


THE FEW
EXPERIENCED
GENERALS WERE
SPEECHLESS
AS WELL.


PERHAPS THEY WERE
NEVER FACED WITH
SUCH A SCENARIO.

LET ALONE FOR A SELF-ASSURED BOY,

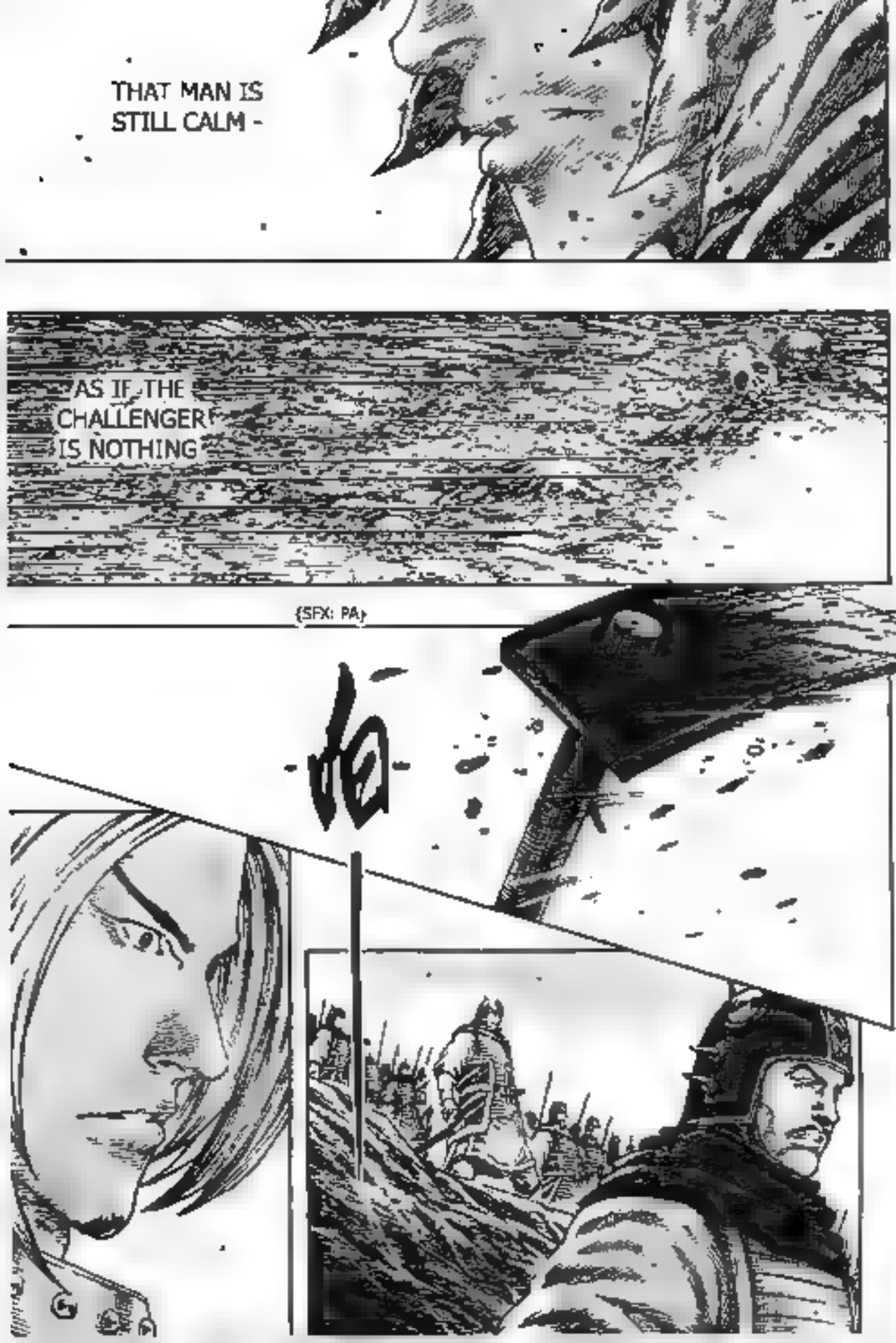

WHO IS A NOVICE TO THE SCENE.
("FIRST-TIME OUT OF THE COTTAGE")

THE OTHER PERSON IS TOO SEASONED

OR MAYBE,

AS IF IT IS JUST A COMMON OCCURRENCE TO HIM.

THIS PATH IS CLOSED.
SOON HE STARTS TO REPEAT THAT STATEMENT.
PLEASE GO AROUND, SIR.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM, BOY?

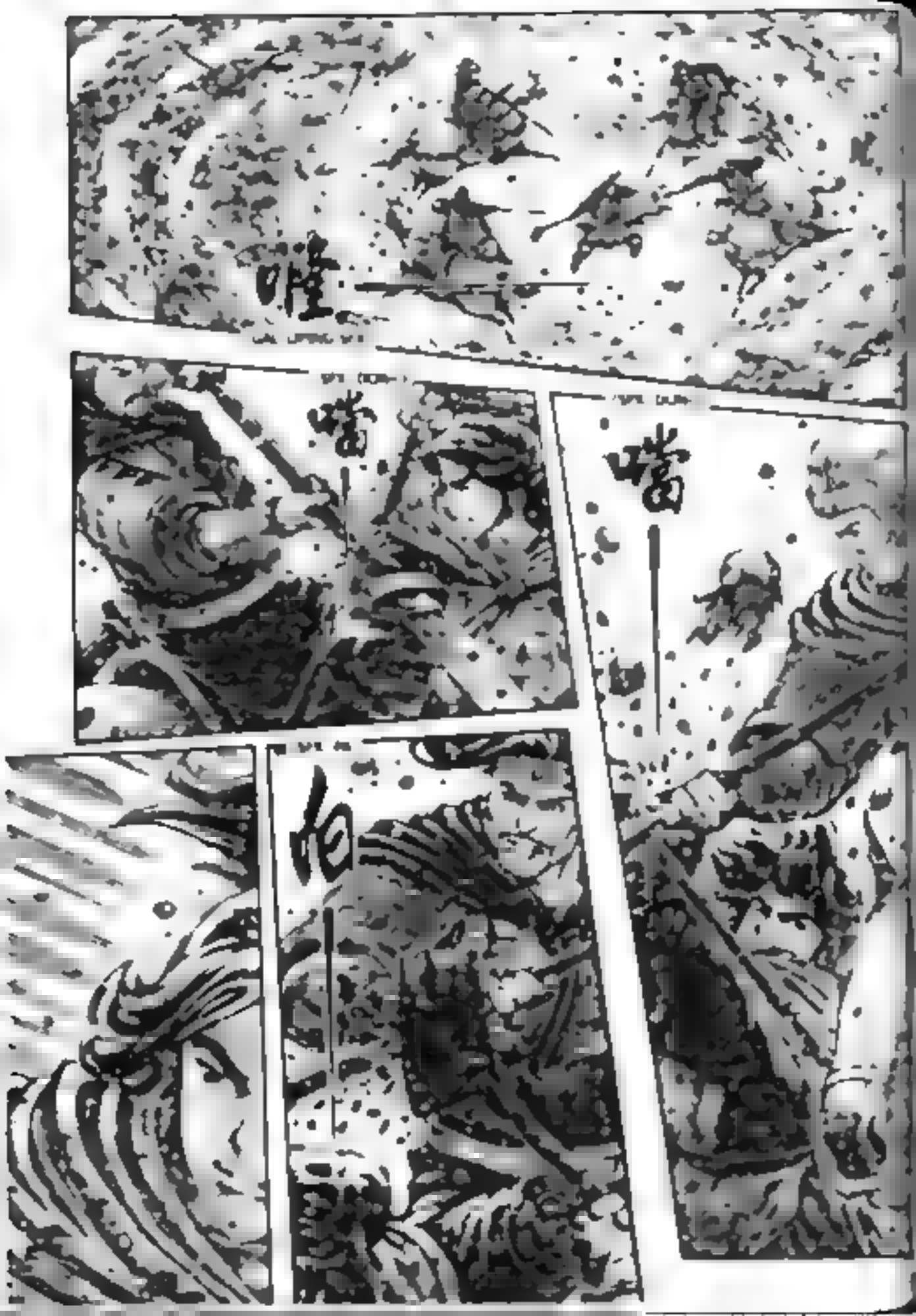

THAT MAN IS STILL CALM -
AS IF THE CHALLENGER IS NOTHING
{SFX: PA}
da-

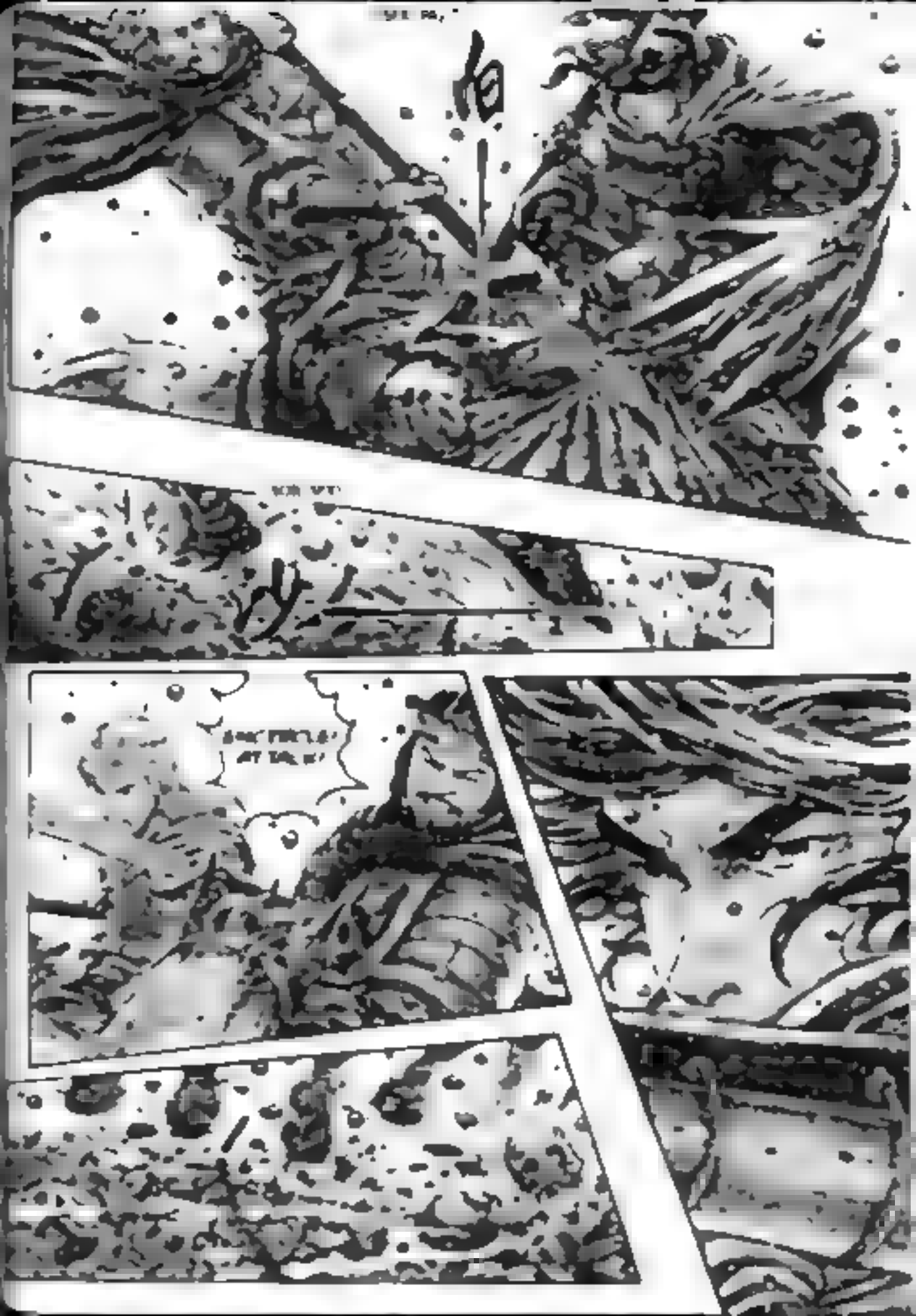
HE THEN UTTERED A WORD COLDLY.

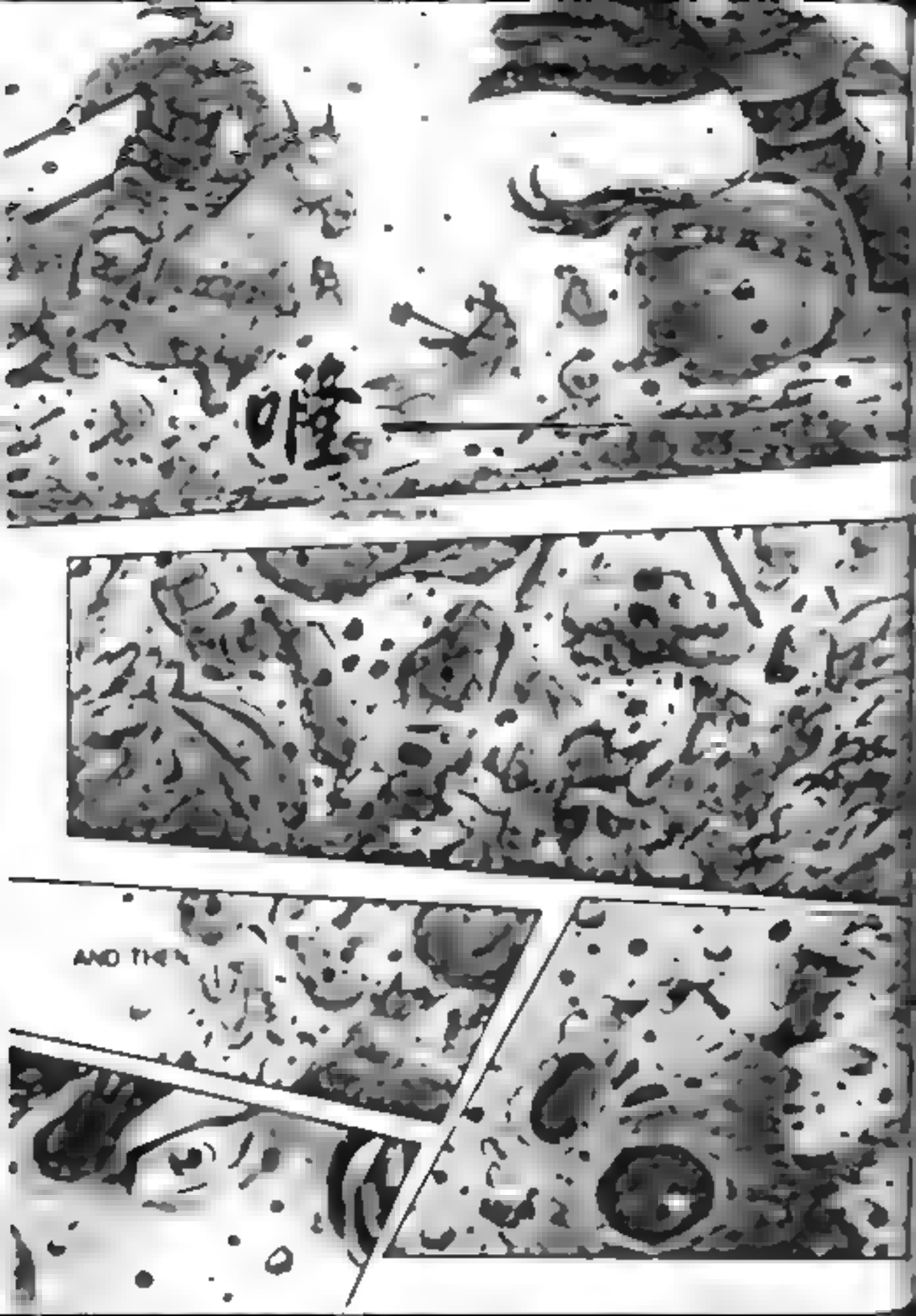
SCRAW

KILL

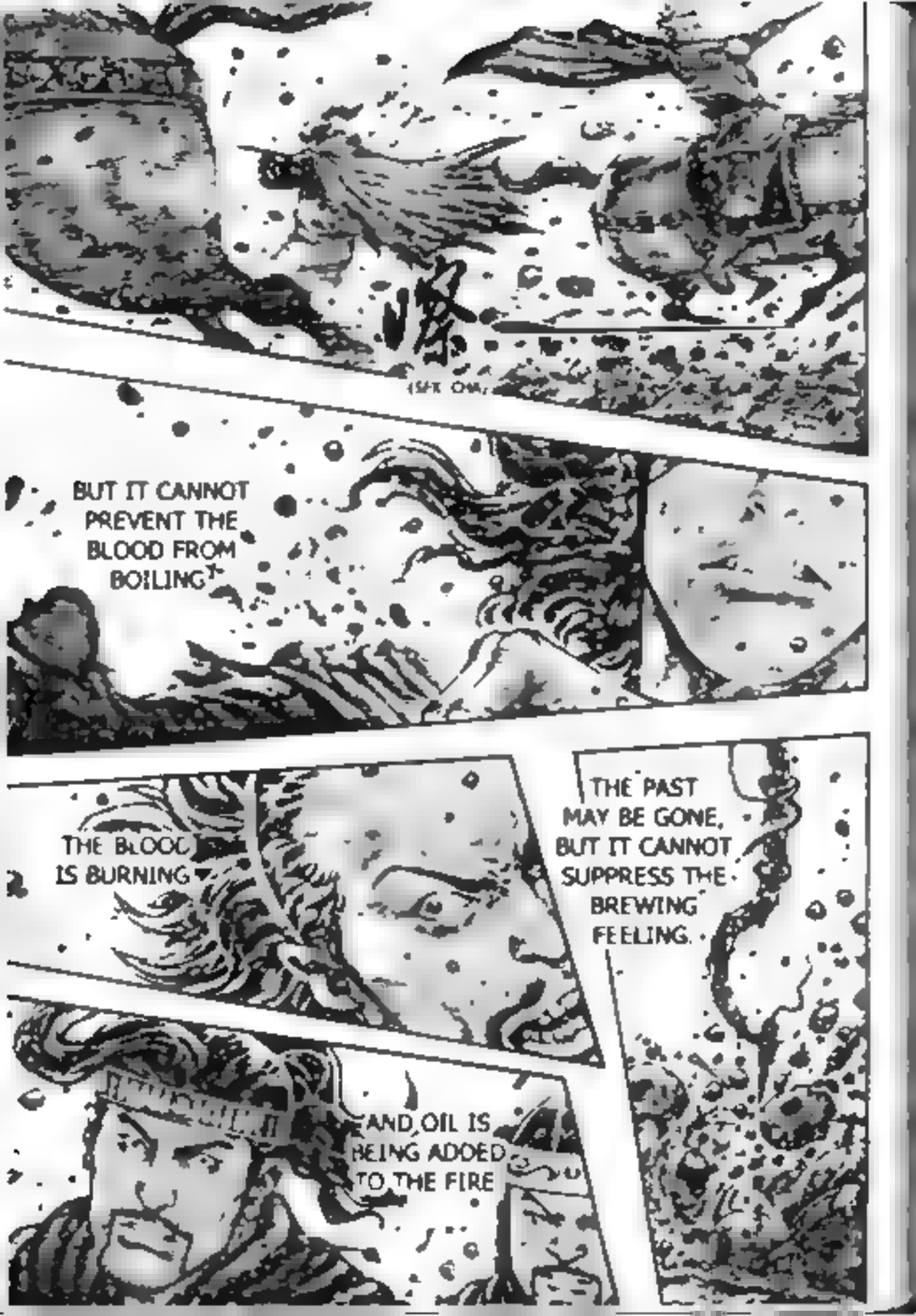
KILL
碰


唰
嗤
嗤
白




AND THEN

THAT MAN LOST HIS COOL.
THE SITUATION SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL.
THE BLADE MAY FEEL COLD,


(SFX: OM)
BUT IT CANNOT PREVENT THE BLOOD FROM BOILING
THE BLOOD IS BURNING
THE PAST MAY BE GONE, BUT IT CANNOT SUPPRESS THE BREWING FEELING.
AND OIL IS BEING ADDED TO THE FIRE

AND FIRE IS
REPEATING
THAT WORD.

HE WHO HONORS COMRADES AND COMMITMENTS

WILL SHOCK THE WORLD A FEW YEARS
LATER AT CHANGBAN.

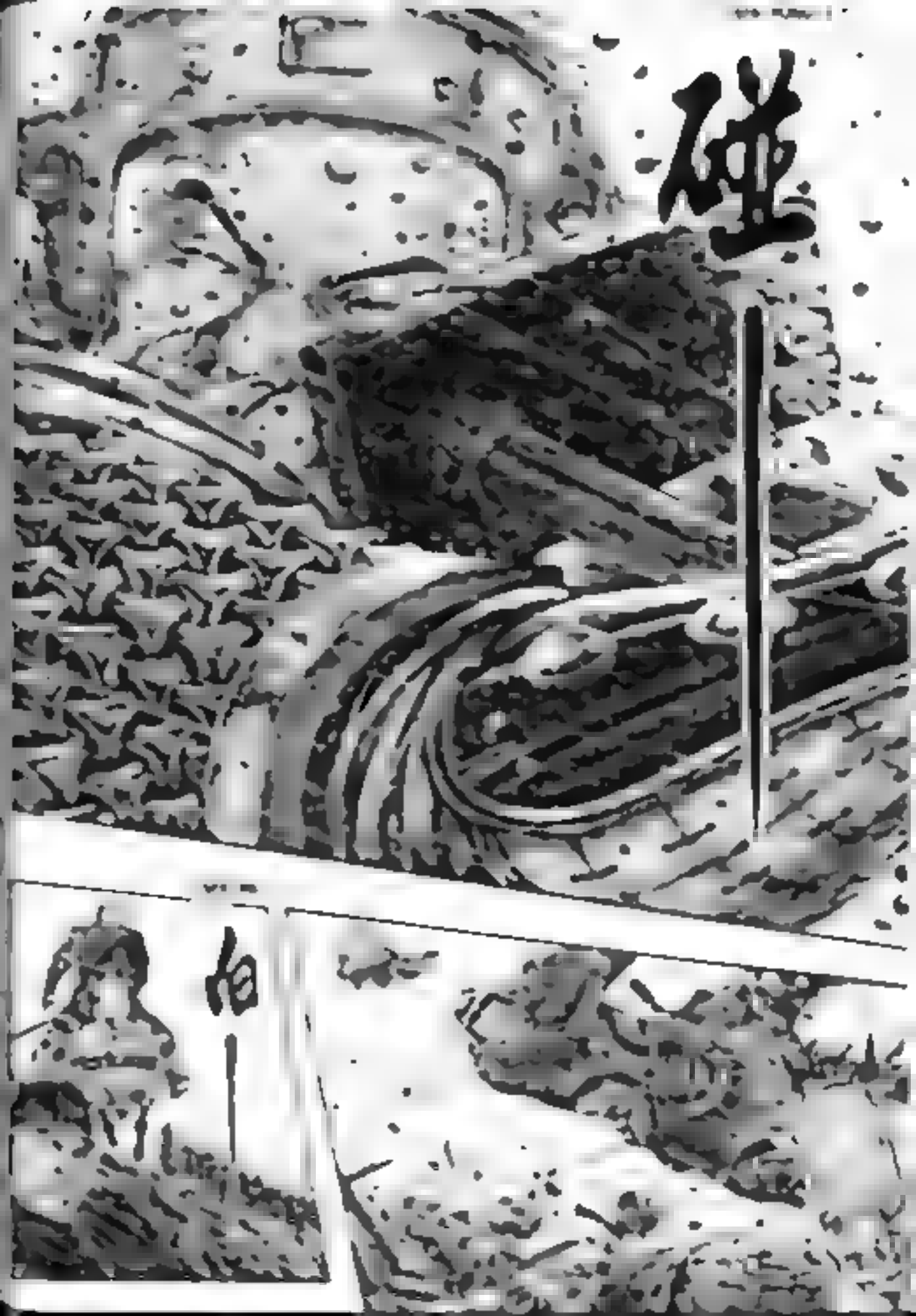
CHAPTER 274 THE SECOND STRANGE MAN

第二百七十四回 第二怪人

SIR!
CAMP MASTER OF THE THIRD ENCAMPMENT
HAN HAO
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
THE YUAN ARMY HAS A WEIRD WAY OF DEPLOYING ITS TROOPS. WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.
THE YUAN ARMY IS NOT RESTING. THEY WERE BLOCKED!
THE ONE WHO BLOCKED THEM IS THAT STRANGE MAN!

YOU... YOU MEAN THAT FRIEND OF CHEN DENG IS STILL THERE?
GOOD FOR US THAT THE YUAN ARMY STOPPED.
YES. IT SOUNDS LIKE AN UPSET COMING FROM THE YUAN ARMY. SOMETHING BIG MAY HAVE HAPPENED!
LISTEN UP, WE SHOULD STILL UPROOT AND RETREAT BACK TO THE (MAJOR) DEFENSIVE LINE ACCORDING TO ADVISOR GUO'S PLAN
SIR, THERE IS ANOTHER MAN WHO REFUSED TO RETREAT.

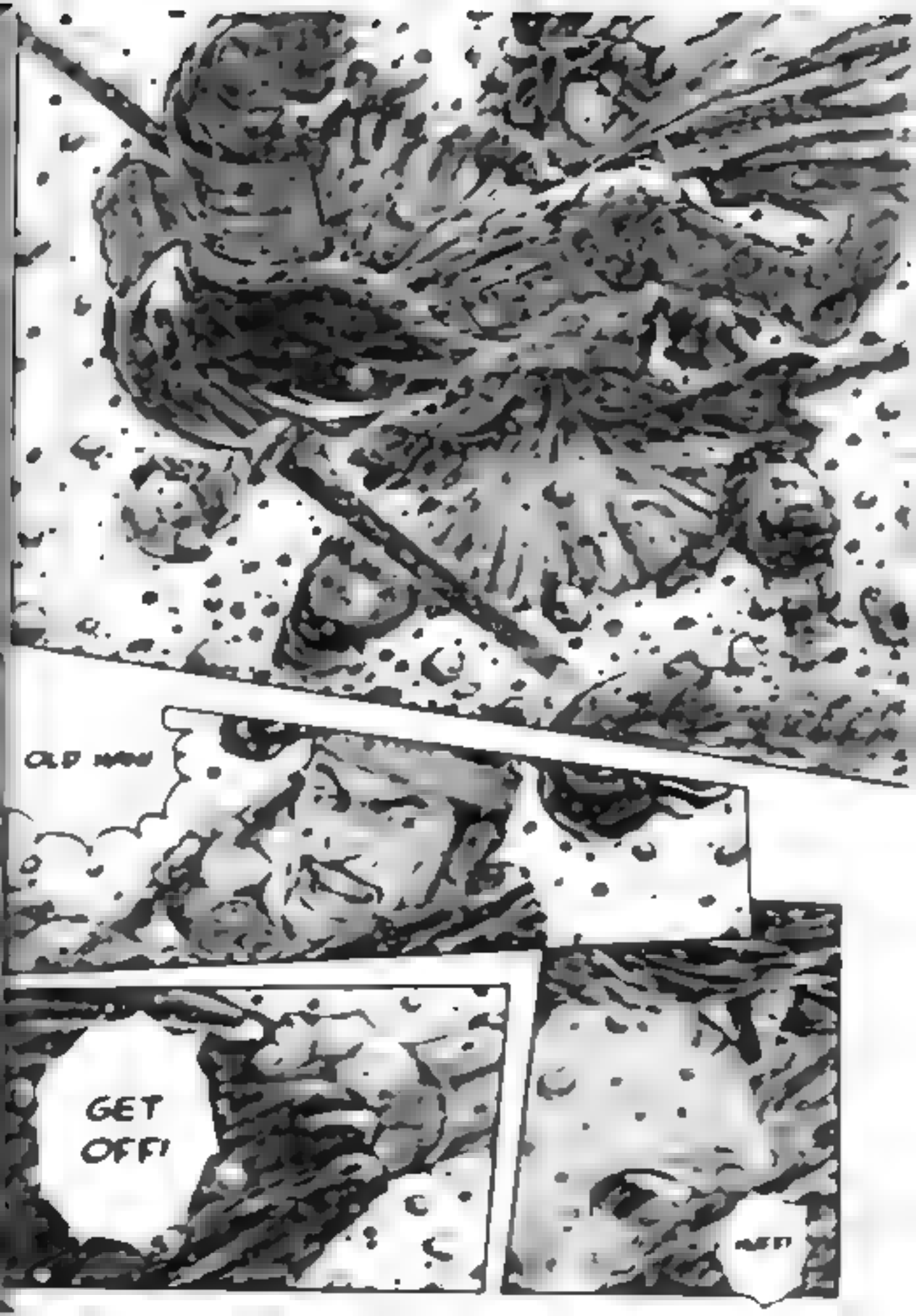
GENERAL HAN IS RIGHT. OUR ARMY HAS COMPLETELY FINISHED PACKING.
HOW DARE HE DISOBEY A MILITARY ORDER?
IT'S JUST THAT HE IS NOT DIRECTLY UNDER OUR COMMAND.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE I HAVE NO INSUBORDINATE SOLDIER IN MY TROOP
AND HIS RANK IS HIGH, NOT SOMEONE I CAN...

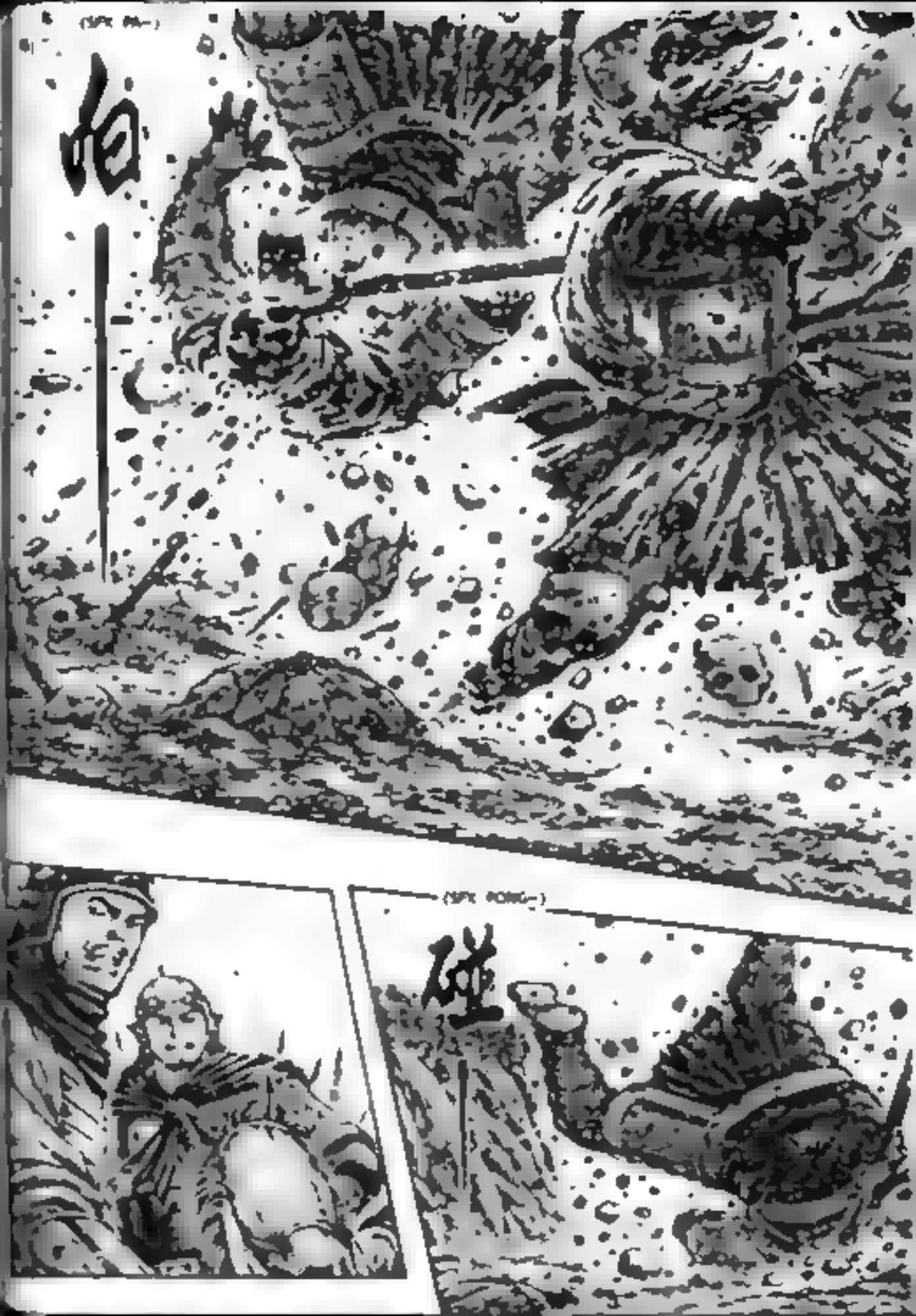

碰
怕

CIAO GONG!
DON'T BE RASH, OLD MAN
THIS GUY IS NO JOKE!

(SFX ZING~)
鋒
STAY CALM!!

EVEN FOR VETERANS LIKE THEM THIS IS A FIRST
THEY HAVE LOST IT
WHEN FACED WITH THIS MAN
GET OFF!
WE ARE LIKE CHILDREN


OLD MAN
GET OFF!
AET!



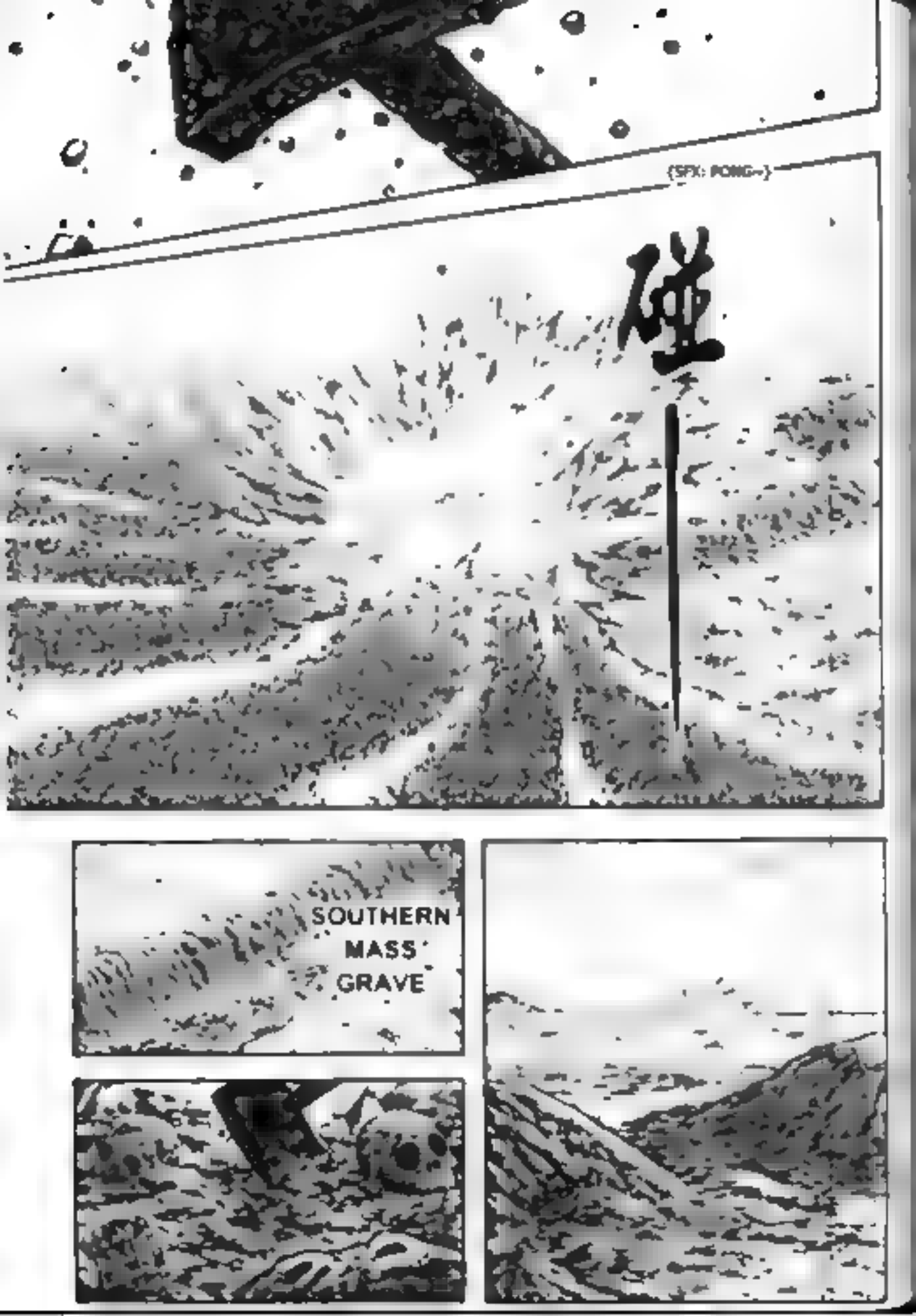
峰
. ALL... ALL THREE FINISHED.
SCRAM

SCRAM
LOOK OUT HE'S COMING UP!
HOLD THE ENTRANCE!
TA
BOY!

GET OFF!

STAY CALM! HE... HE'S JUST ONE MAN!
STAY PUT!
THERE YOU ARE.
HUFF.

SCRAM!

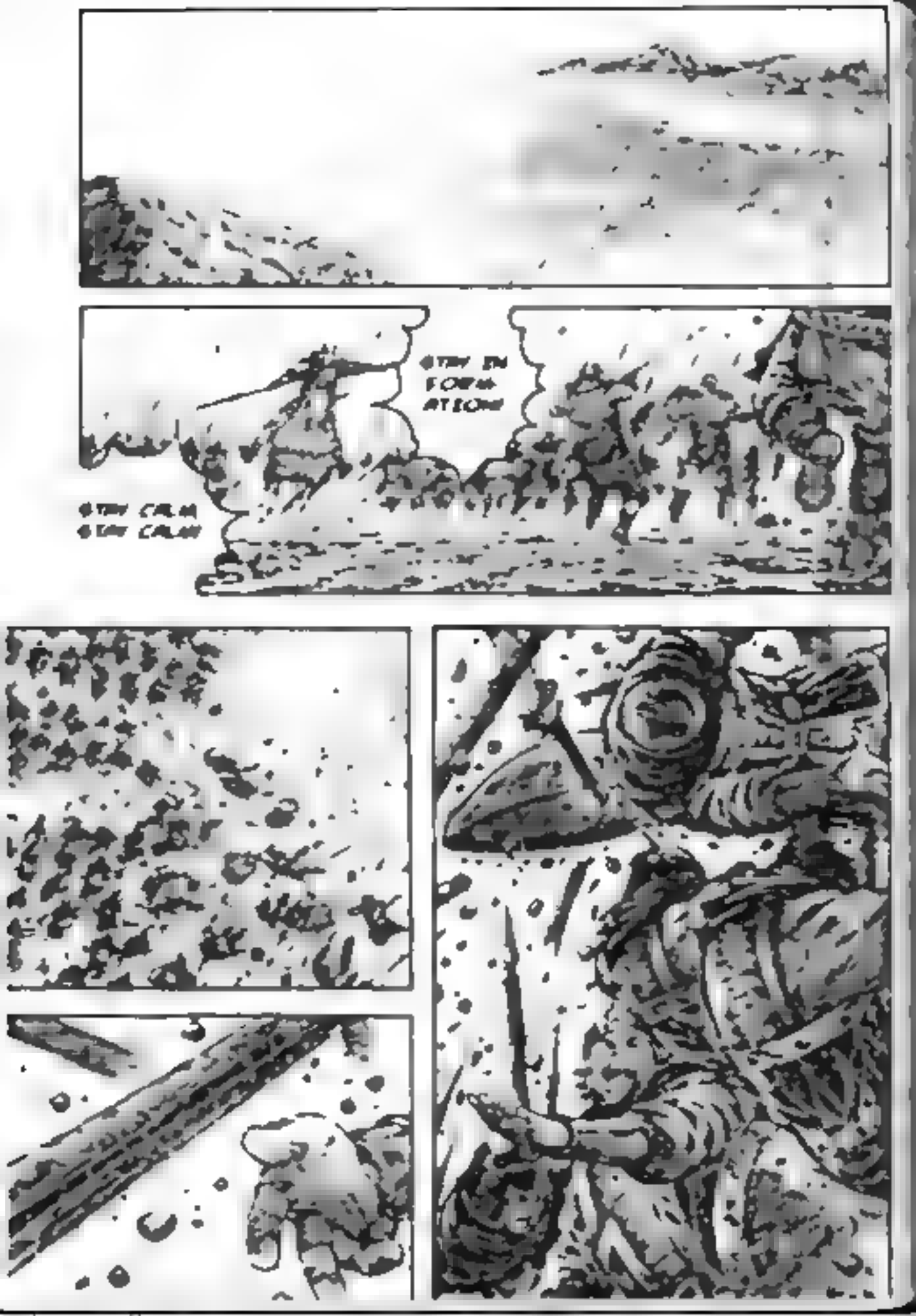

{SFX: POING~}
碰
SOUTHERN MASS GRAVE

YES. THEY MIGHT BE FACING SOME TROUBLE AT THE MASS GRAVE NEAR THE NORTHERN THIRD CAMP.
YOU MEAN THEY STOPPED?
CAO CAO EXECUTED SO MANY OF OUR BROTHERS, BOSS, WE CAN'T KEEP LOOKING AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
BOSS...
KEEP DIGGING .. I'M HERE...
THEY DIED ALL BECAUSE OF ME. TAKING THEIR REMAINS BACK TO THEIR FAMILIES IS THE LEAST I CAN DO.

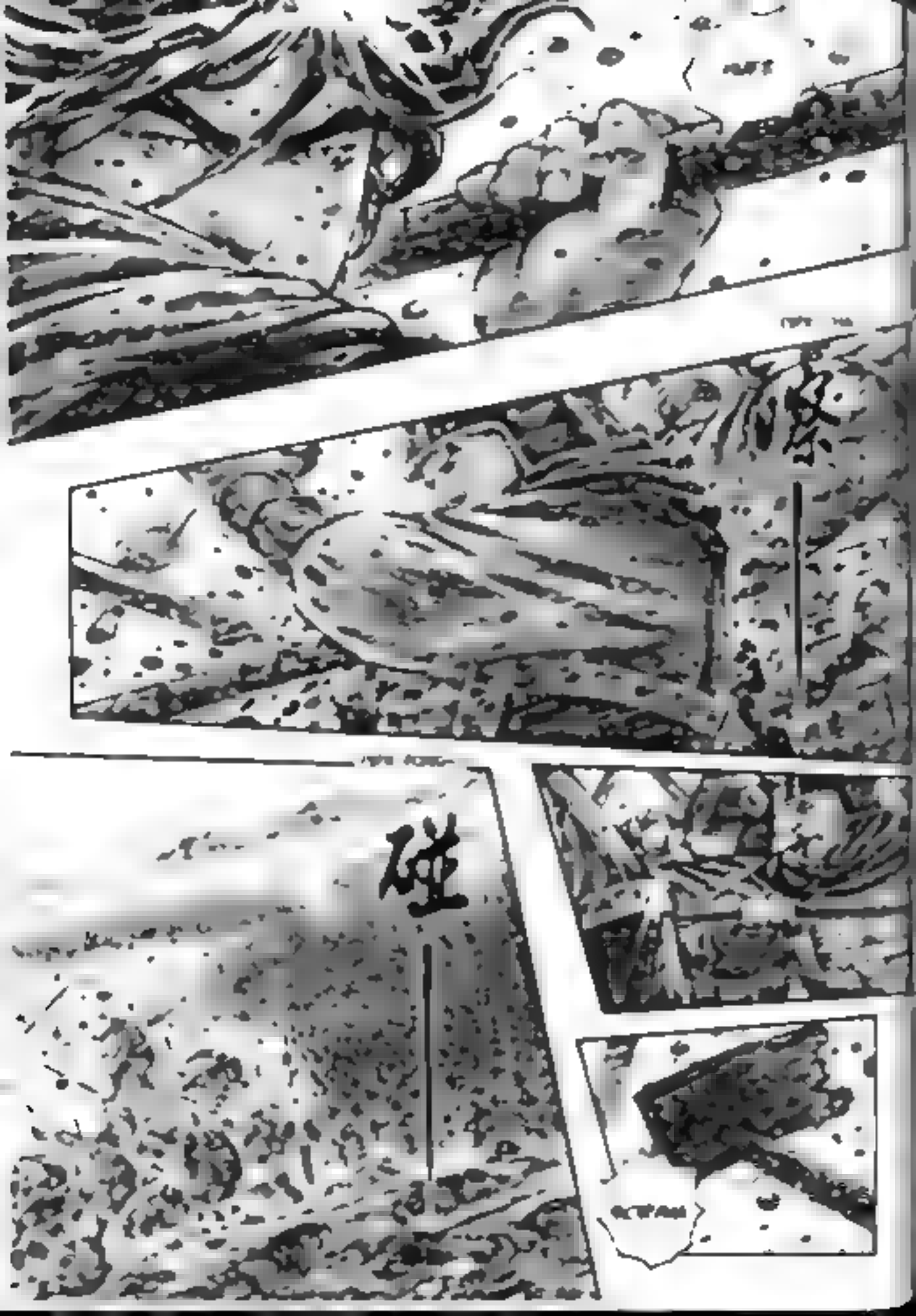
NO ONE SHALL GET PAST THE REACH OF MY SWORD.

HE WHO HOLDS HIS GROUND

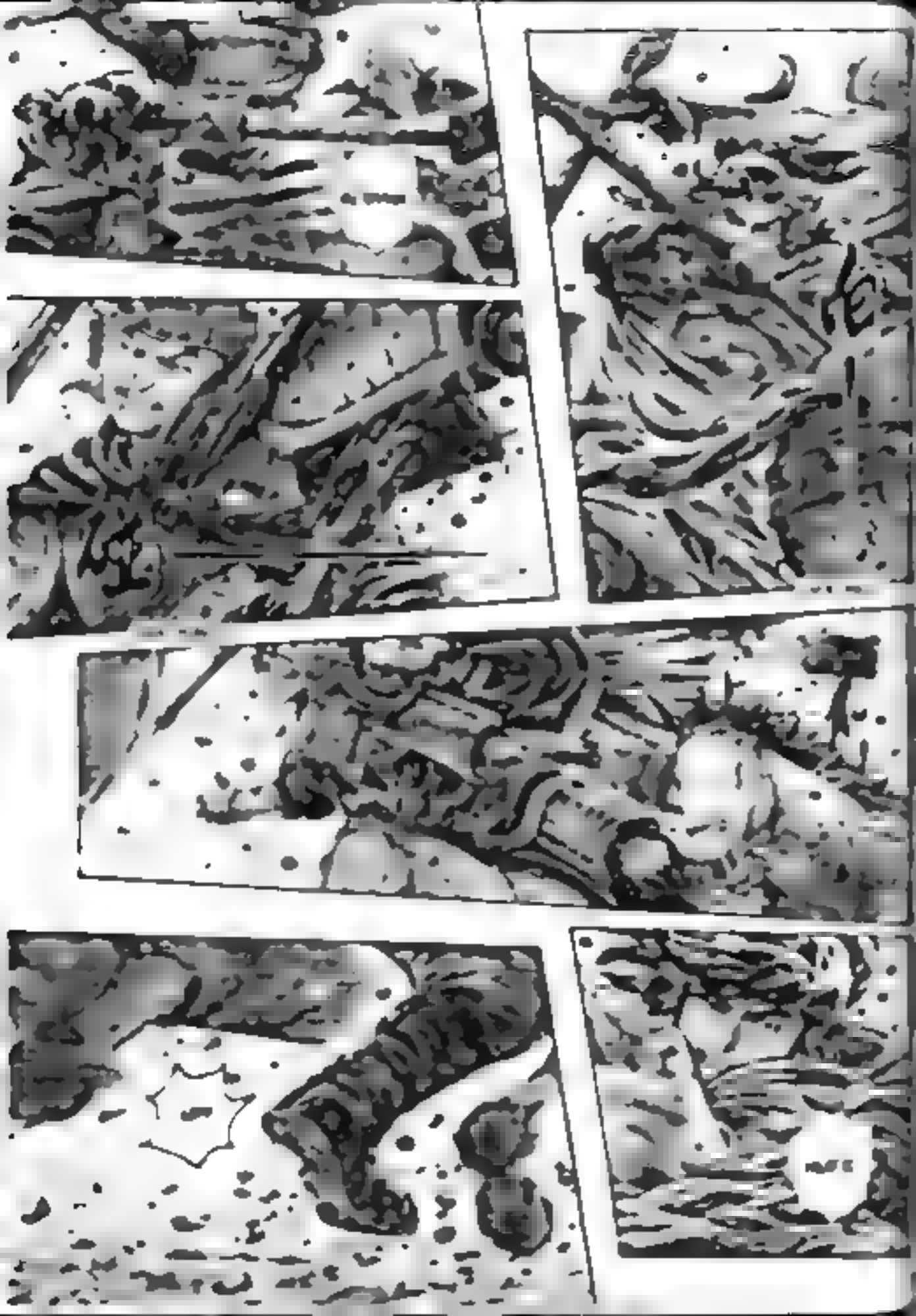
WILL SURPASS LÜ BU A FEW YEARS
LATER AS A GOD OF WAR AT HEFEI.

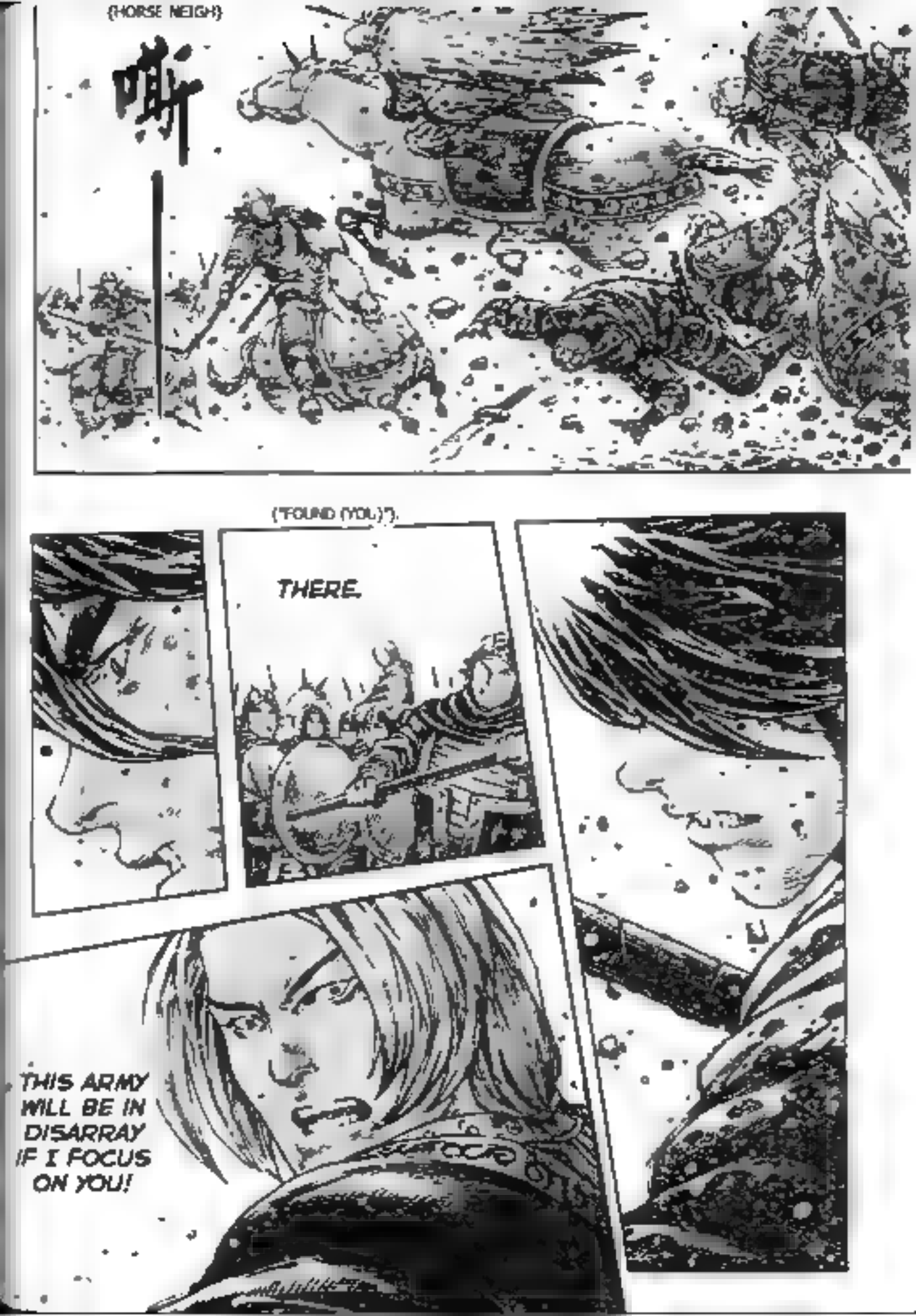


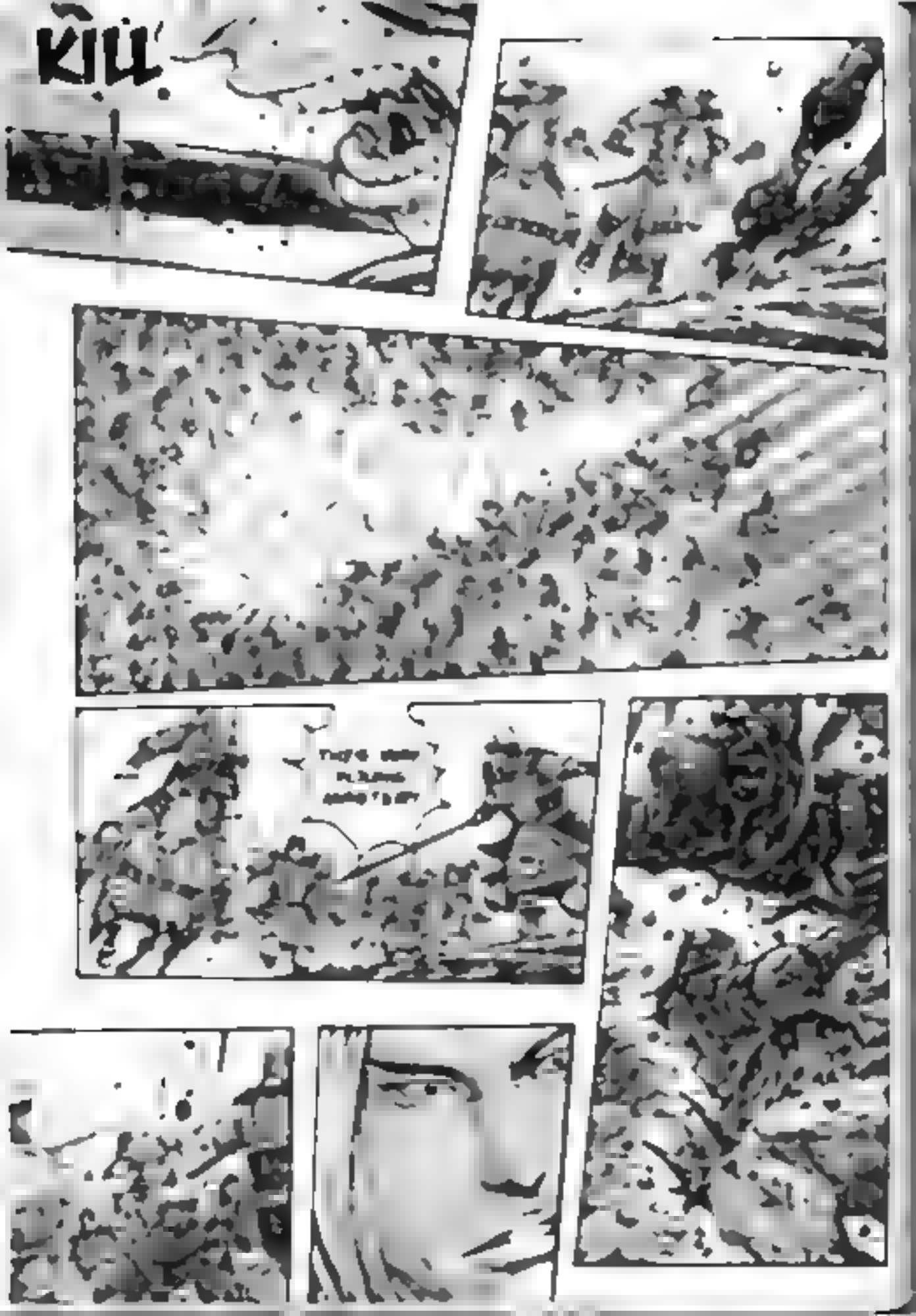
CHAPTER 275 TWO DEMONS

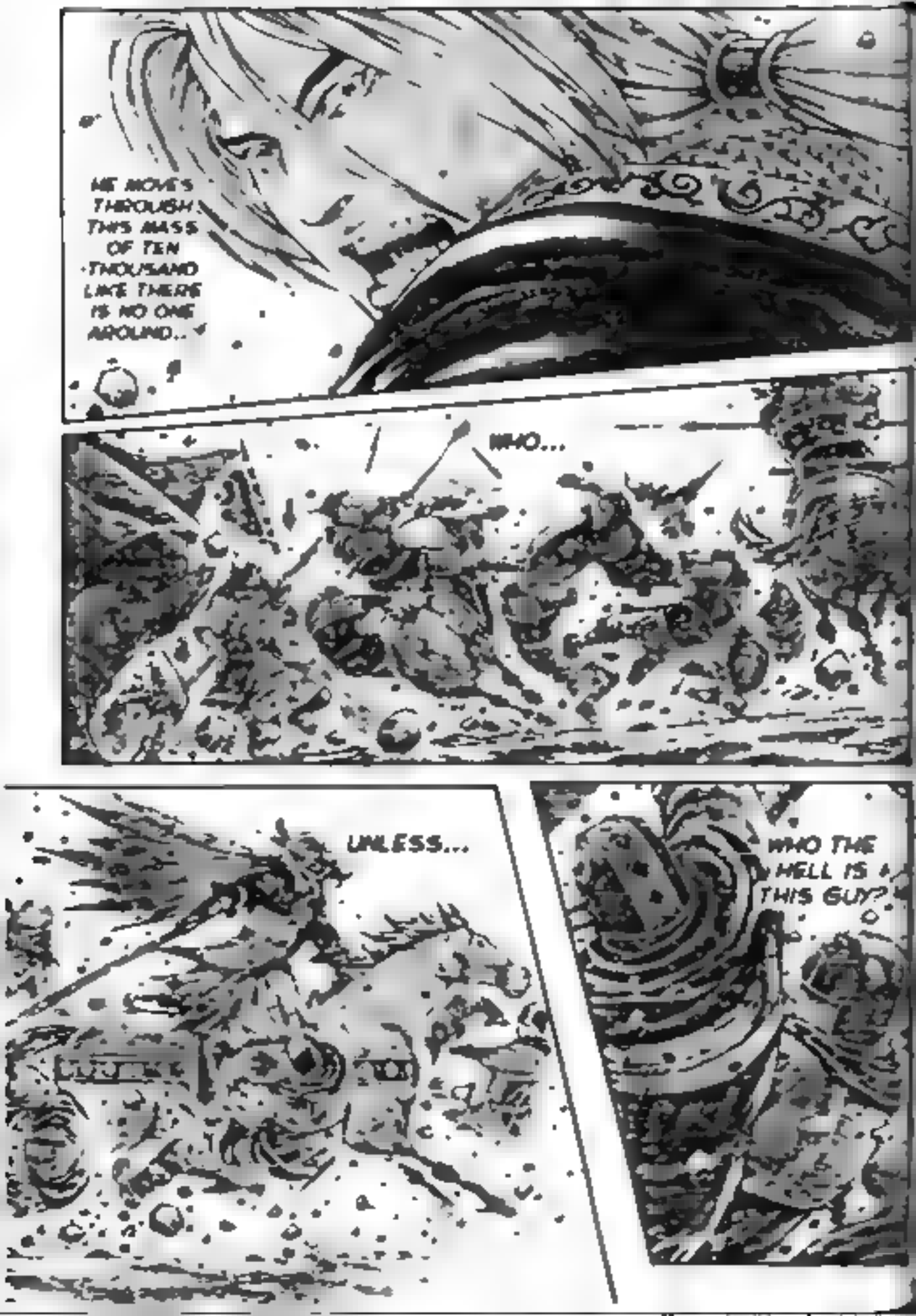

碰

MOVE ASIDE EVERYBODY THE LAWLESS IS COMING!
KILL
ASIDE



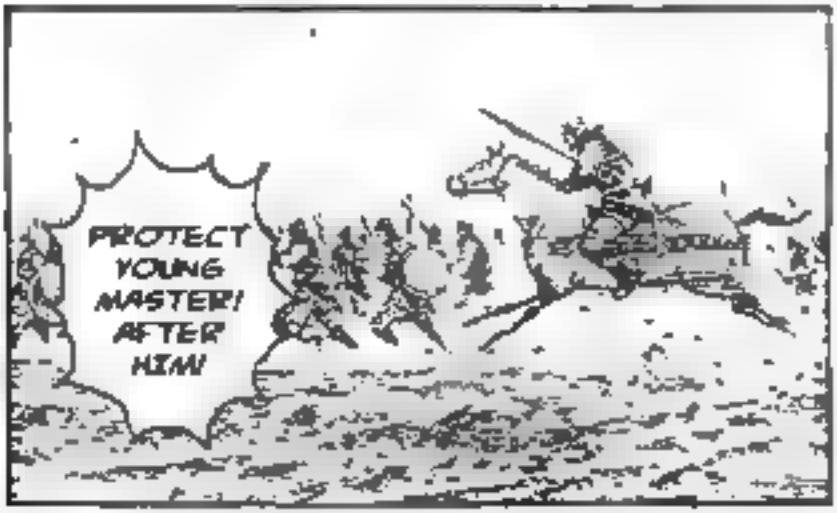

(HORSE NEIGH)
唏
("FOUND (YOU)").
THERE.
THIS ARMY WILL BE IN DISARRAY IF I FOCUS ON YOU!

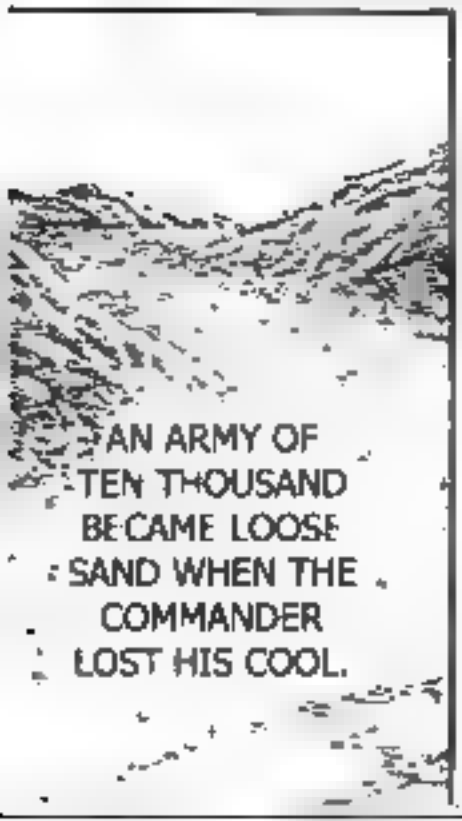

KILL


HE MOVES THROUGH THIS MASS OF TEN THOUSAND LIKE THERE IS NO ONE AROUND...
WHO...
UNLESS...
WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?

LU BU!
LU BU IS STILL ALIVE?
IS THIS CAO CAO'S TRICKERY?

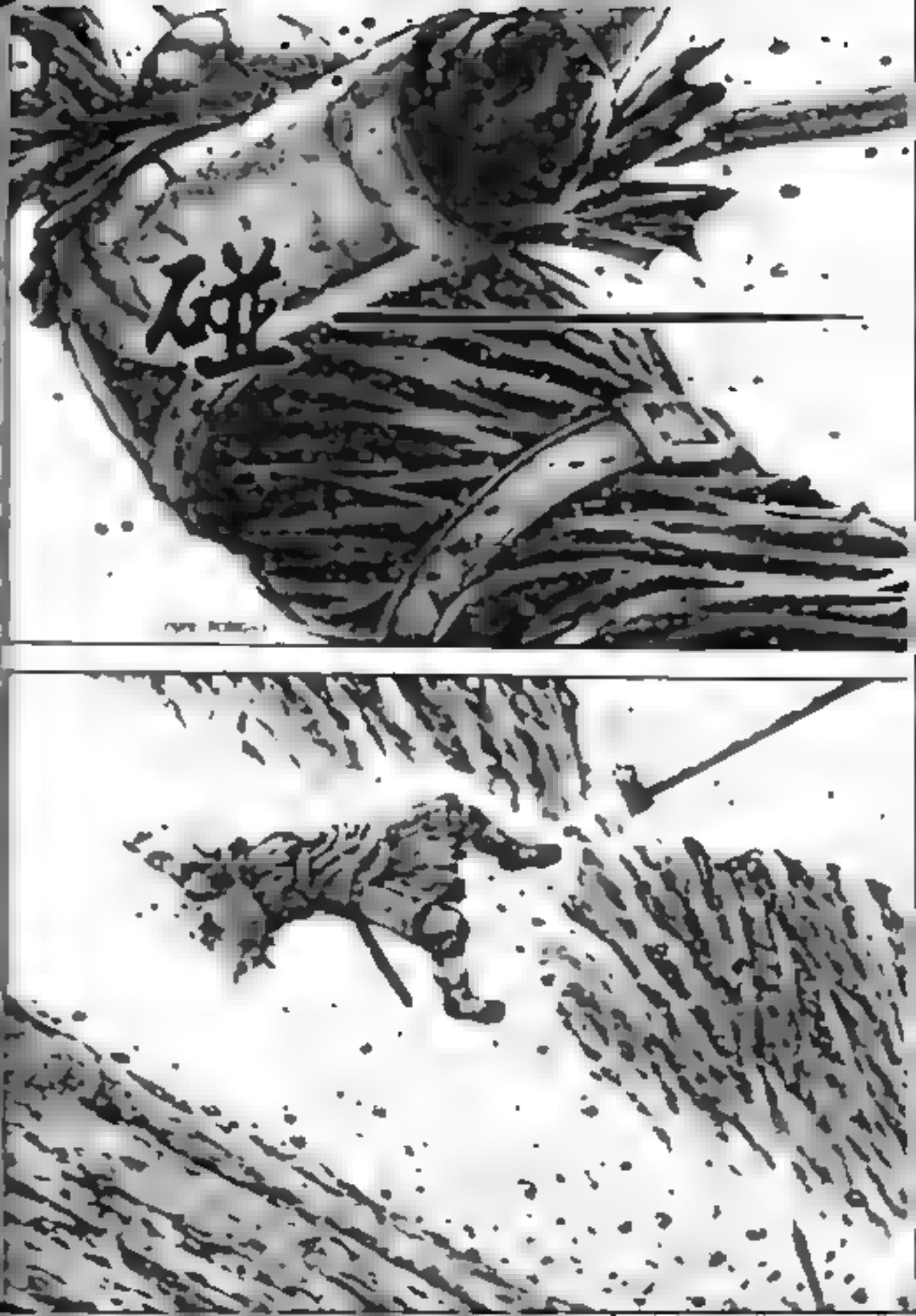
("YOU MEN BE MY REAR GUARD")





STEADY GUARD!!
BLOCK HIM!
(SFX CHA-)
UNBELIEVABLE!

LU BU REALLY IS STILL ALIVE!
WE FELL FOR THEIR TRICK!
FOLLOW ME TO THE OTHER SIDE!

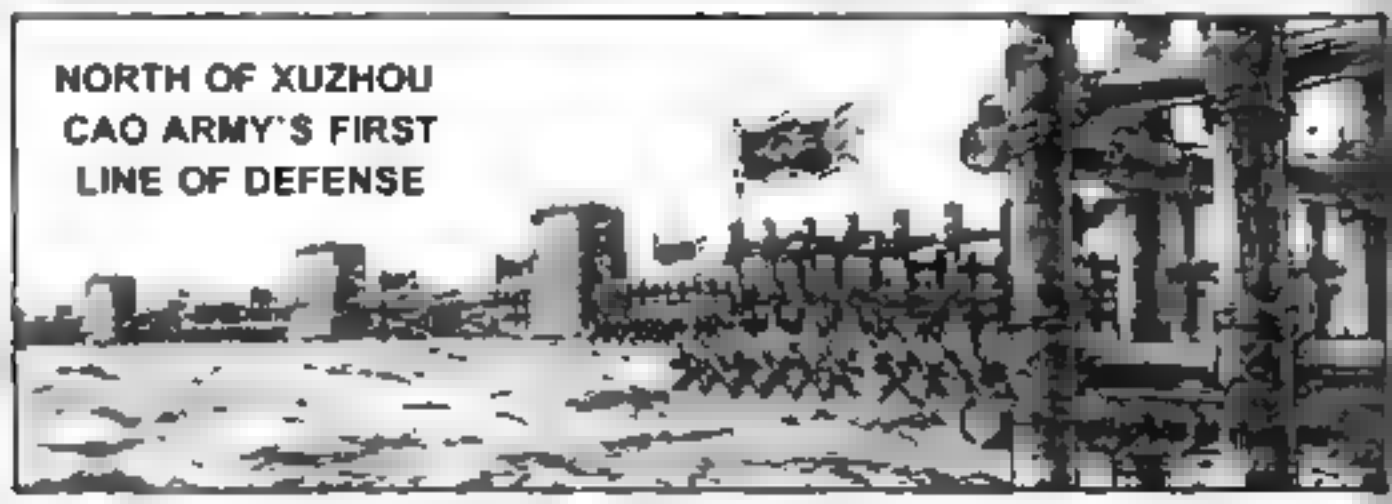

碰

YIELD.
TA.

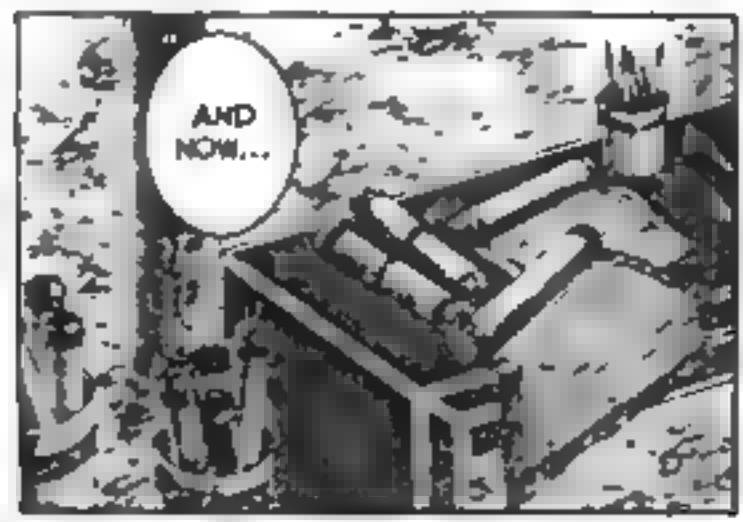
THIS PATH IS MY LIMIT

HOW... HOW DID ANOTHER ONE...
BE CAREFUL, EVERYONE... THIS GUY...
THE CORPSES WILL BE A MESS IF THE ARMY TREAD OVER THEM.
IS ANOTHER GRAVE-DIGGER!
SCRAM.

I'M IN A VERY SHITTY MOOD.


NORTH OF XUZHOU
CAO ARMY'S FIRST
LINE OF DEFENSE

LAST TIME YOU FOUND NOTHING WHEN ASSIGNED TO WATCH SIMA YI.


AND NOW...

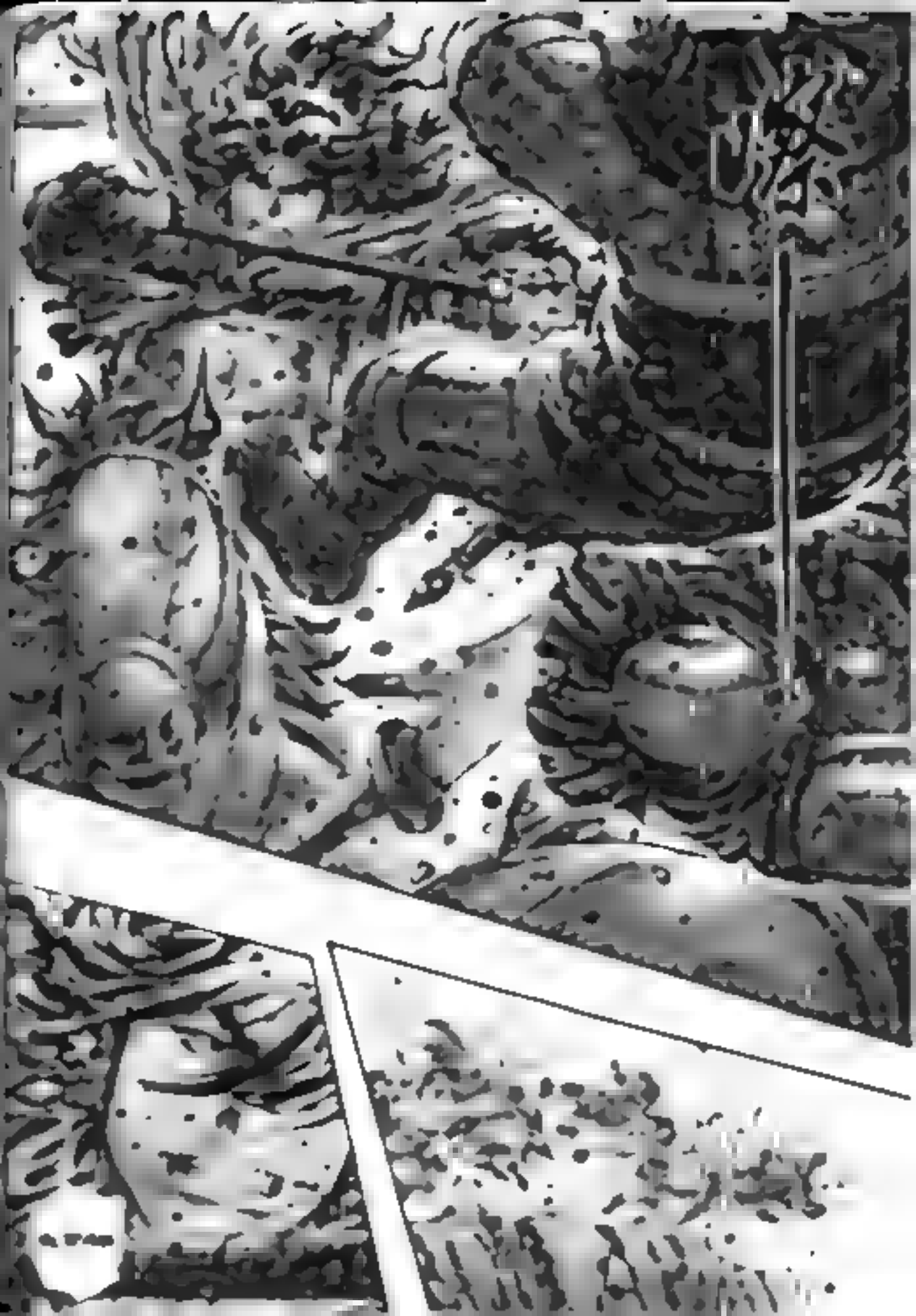
YOU TWO ARE QUITE SKILLED, AND YET YOU CONTINUE TO FUMBLE?
* MAKE MISTAKE AGAIN AND AGAIN*)

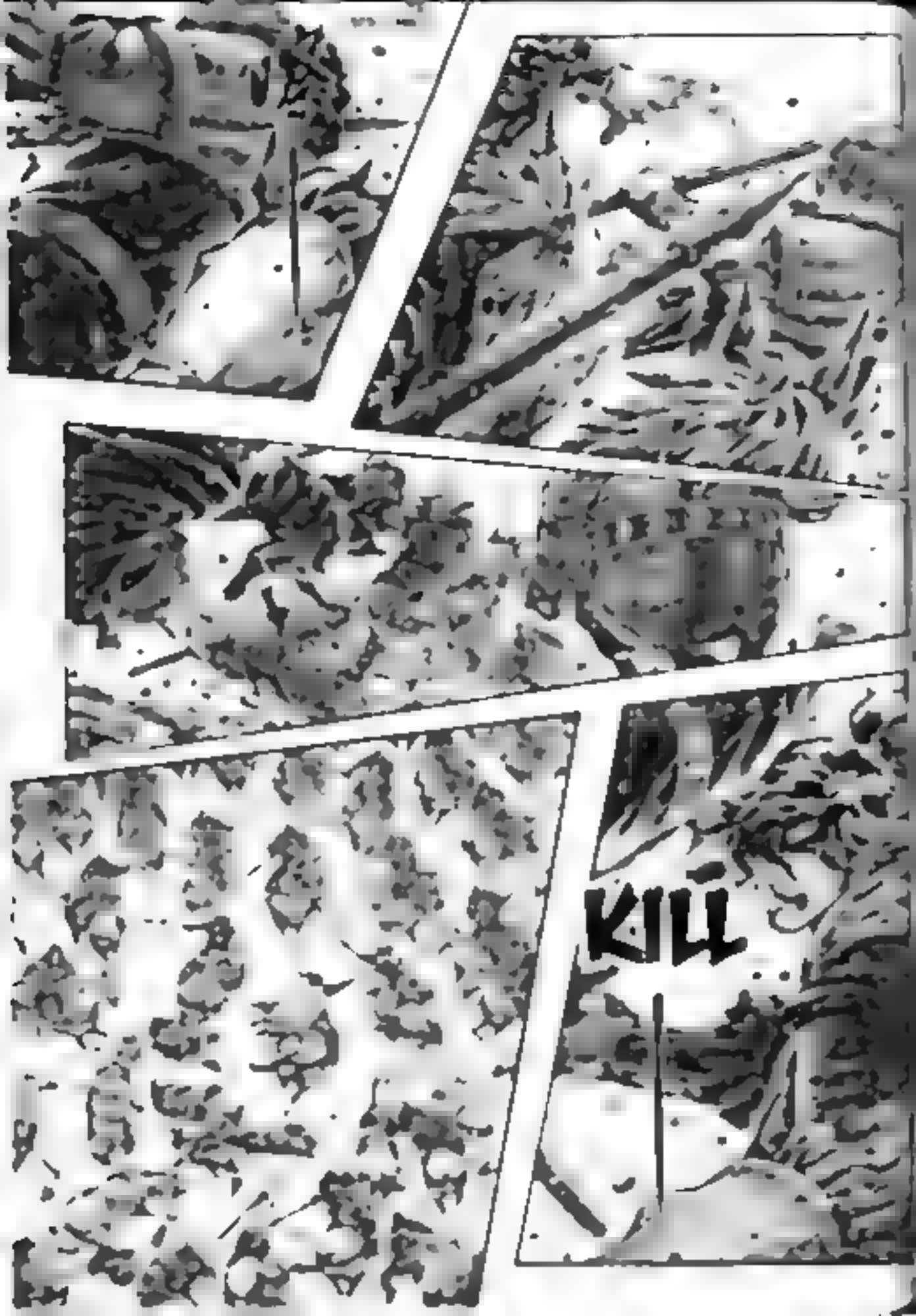
CHAPTER 276 A YOUNG MASTER IN MISFORTUNE

THIS MAN HAS COMMITTED THE HEINOUS ACT OF INSUBORDINATION. OUR LORD WILL DEAL WITH HIM.
I'M INCOMPETENT. I HAVE FAILED ADVISOR GUO JIA.
THE ENEMY APPROACHES. OUR TOP PRIORITY IS TO HOLD THE DEFENSIVE POSITION. NO TIME FOR GAMES.
THANK YOU, SIR.
DON'T WORRY. EVEN HAN HAO COULDN'T TAME HIM, LET ALONE YOU TWO.
DEPLOY SOME TROOP ON THE NORTHERN HILLS. PREPARE TO FACE THE ENEMY.
DEP-UTY.
HERE

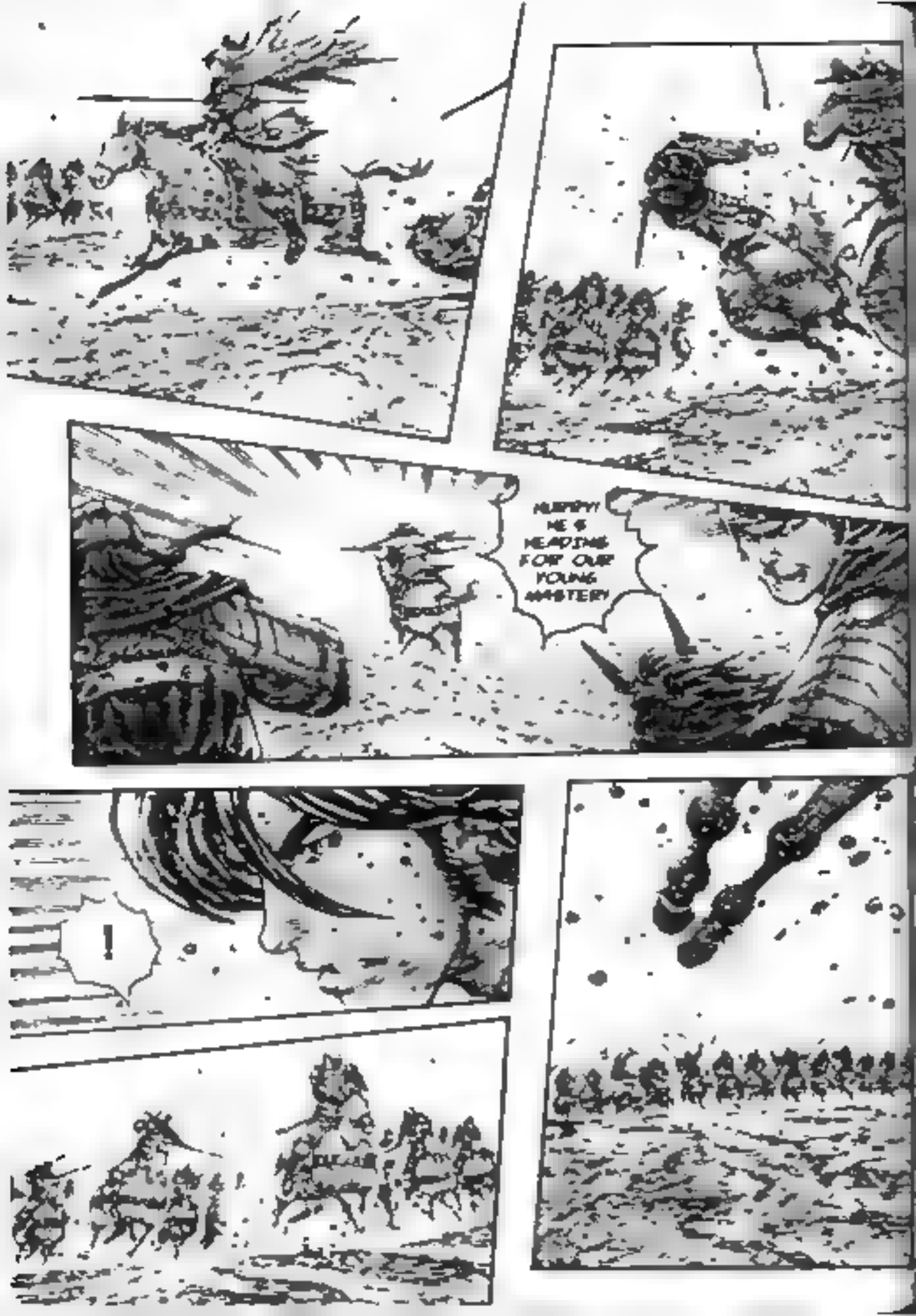
YOU MEAN..
THE ENEMY HAS YET TO APPEAR IN THE NORTHERN HILLS I SUSPECT A CHANGE IN THEIR PLAN.
THE SCOUT REPORTED THAT ANOTHER TROOP WAS DISCOVERED TO OUR EAST
YUE JIN
OUR EAST IS A VITAL GROUND SIR WE CAN'T LOSE IT!
I'M WILLING TO GO AND FEND OFF THE INTRUSION!
EAST?
THAT EAST?

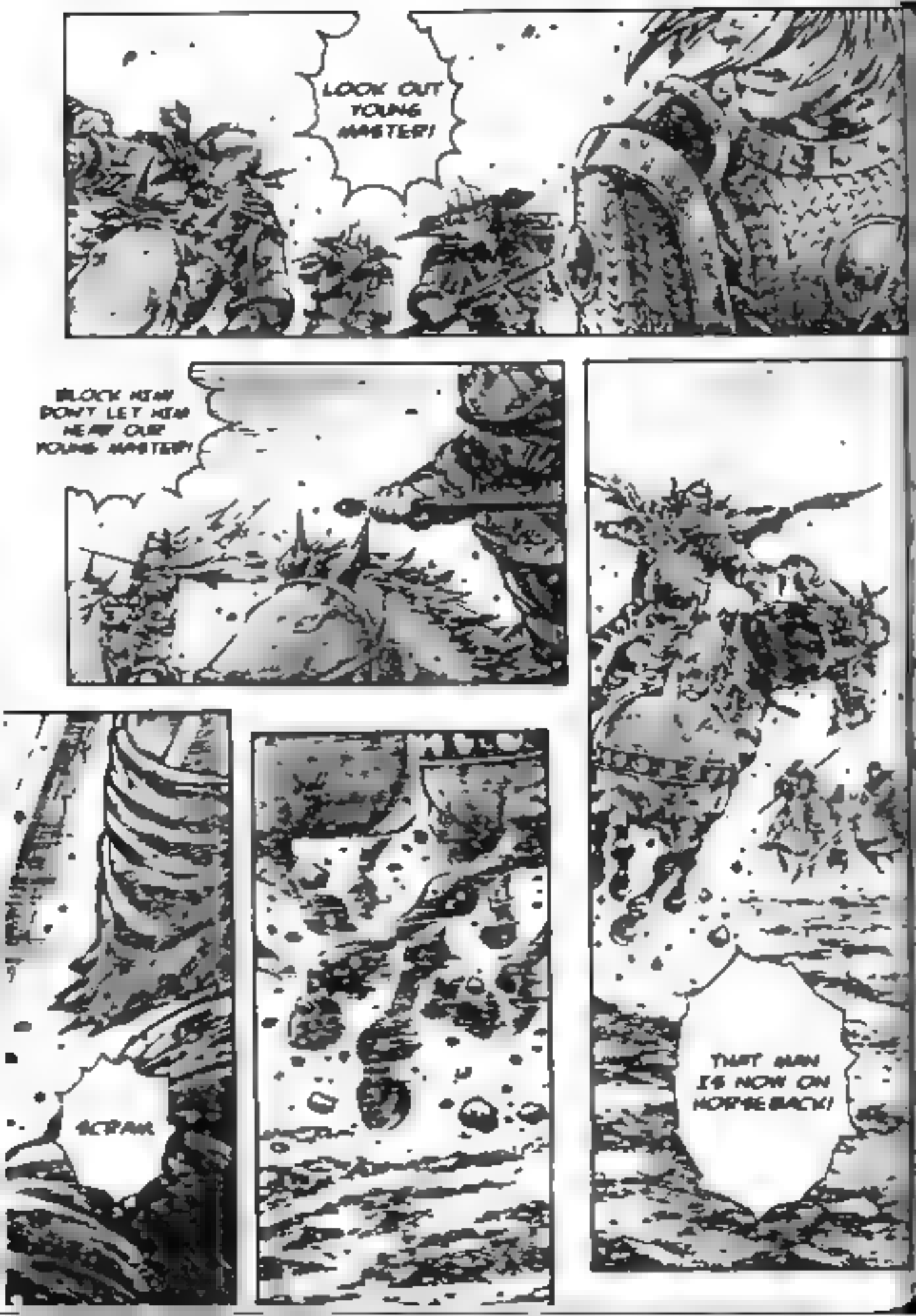
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT THEIR COMMANDER IS NO ORDINARY FOE?
YES. THIS IS A SPECIAL CASE.
(" ONLY NOW DID THEY DISCOVER. ")
NO. WE HAVE DEPLOYED MANY SCOUTS IN THE EAST, YET THEY ARE ONLY REPORTING NOW...
IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU'RE THERE PERSONALLY, ADVISOR.
(GALLOPING SFX)



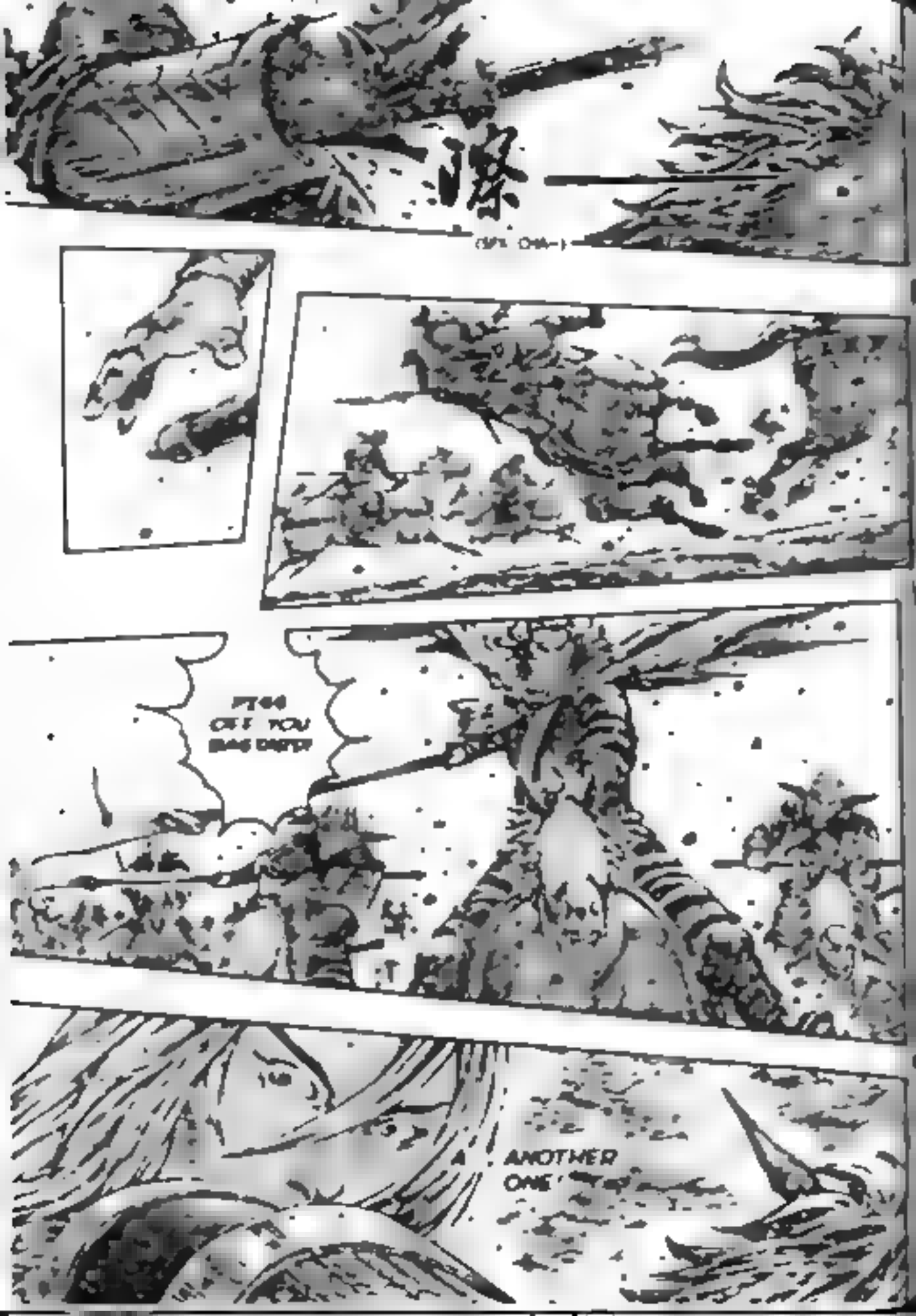

KILL

(SFX OW-)
THAT YOUNG MASTER IS STILL AROUND.
A FIGHT IS STARTING THERE
NICE OPPORTUNITY!

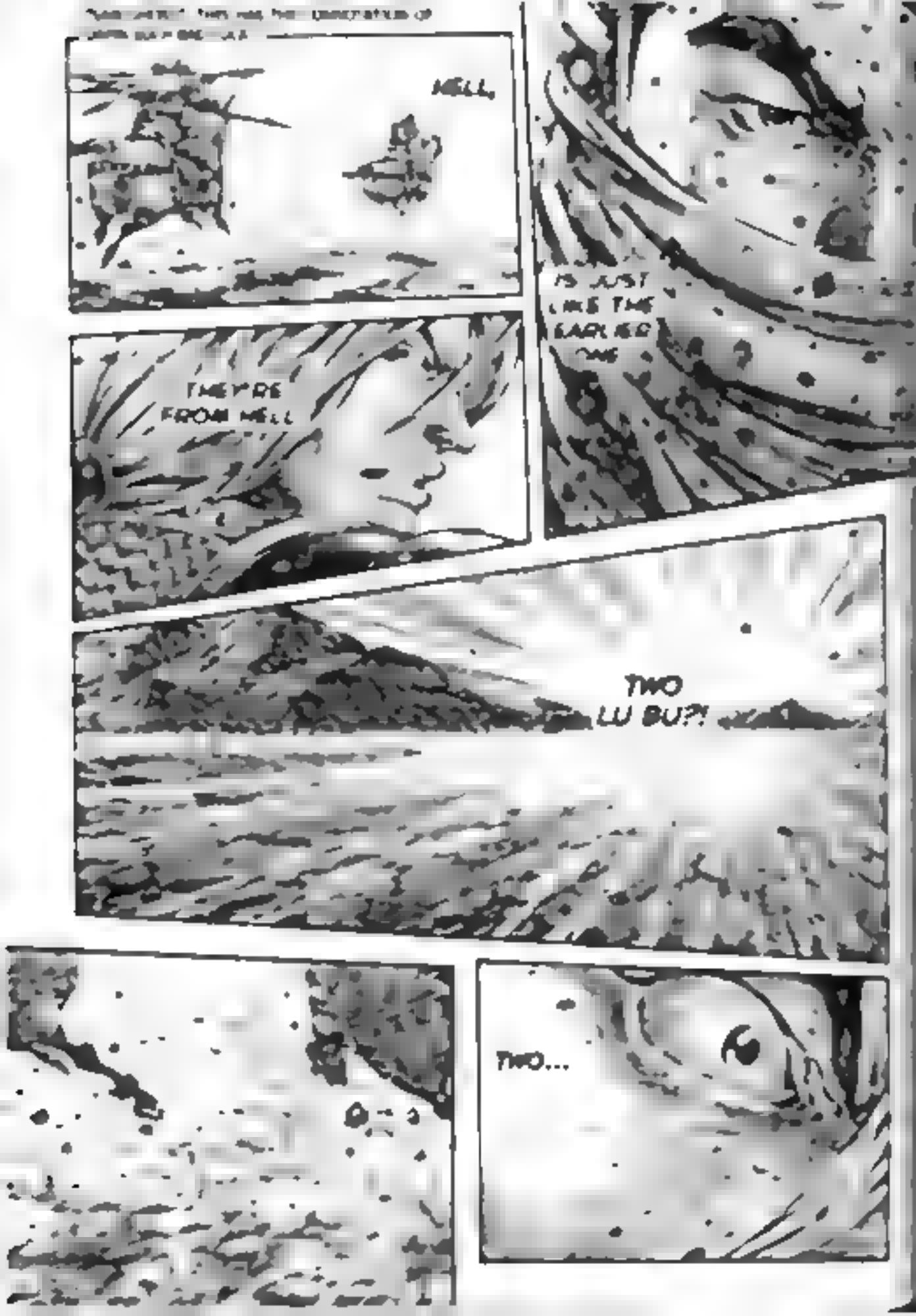

MURPHY! HE'S HEADING FOR OUR YOUNG MASTER!
!


LOOK OUT YOUNG MASTER!
BLOCK HIM! DON'T LET HIM NEAR OUR YOUNG MASTER!
THAT MAN IS NOW ON HORSEBACK!
AGRAH

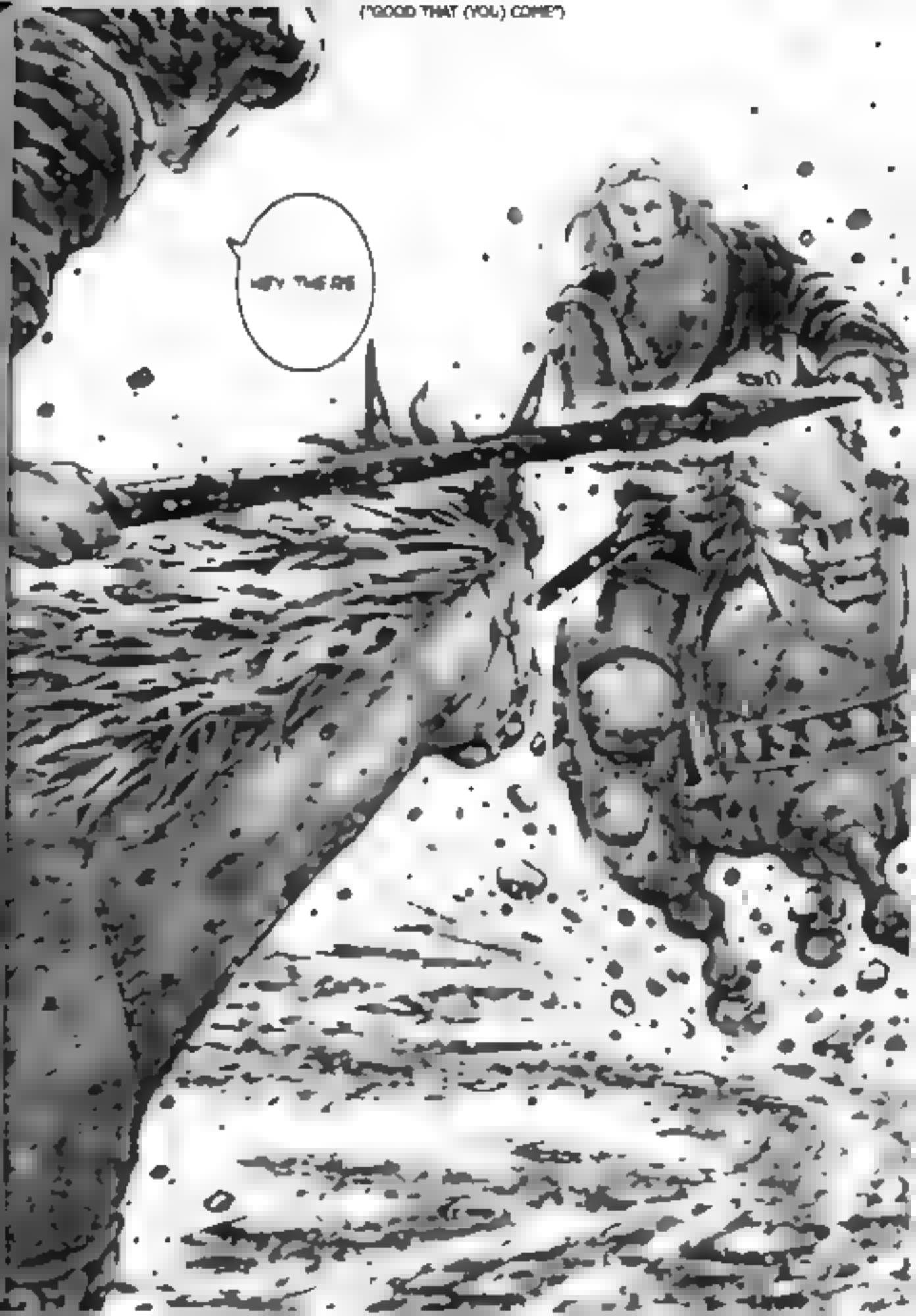
唰
WATCH OUT
I'M
SWITCHING
WEAPONS


涤
(竹 CHU)
IT'S
OUT YOU
BAG OUTS!
ANOTHER
ONE!

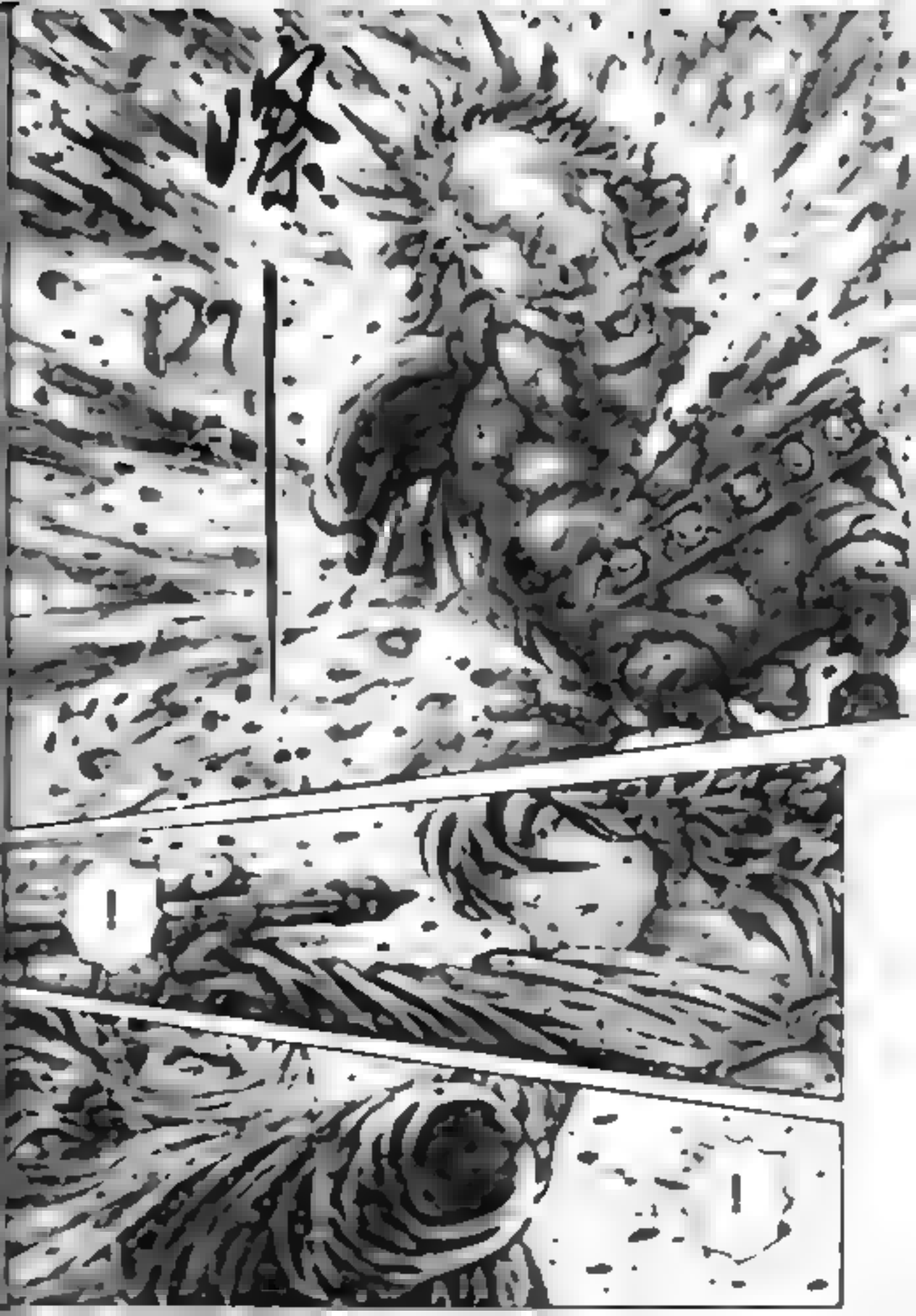
KILL


HELL.
IT JUST LIKE THE EARLIER ONE
THEY'RE FROM HELL
TWO LU BU?!
TWO...

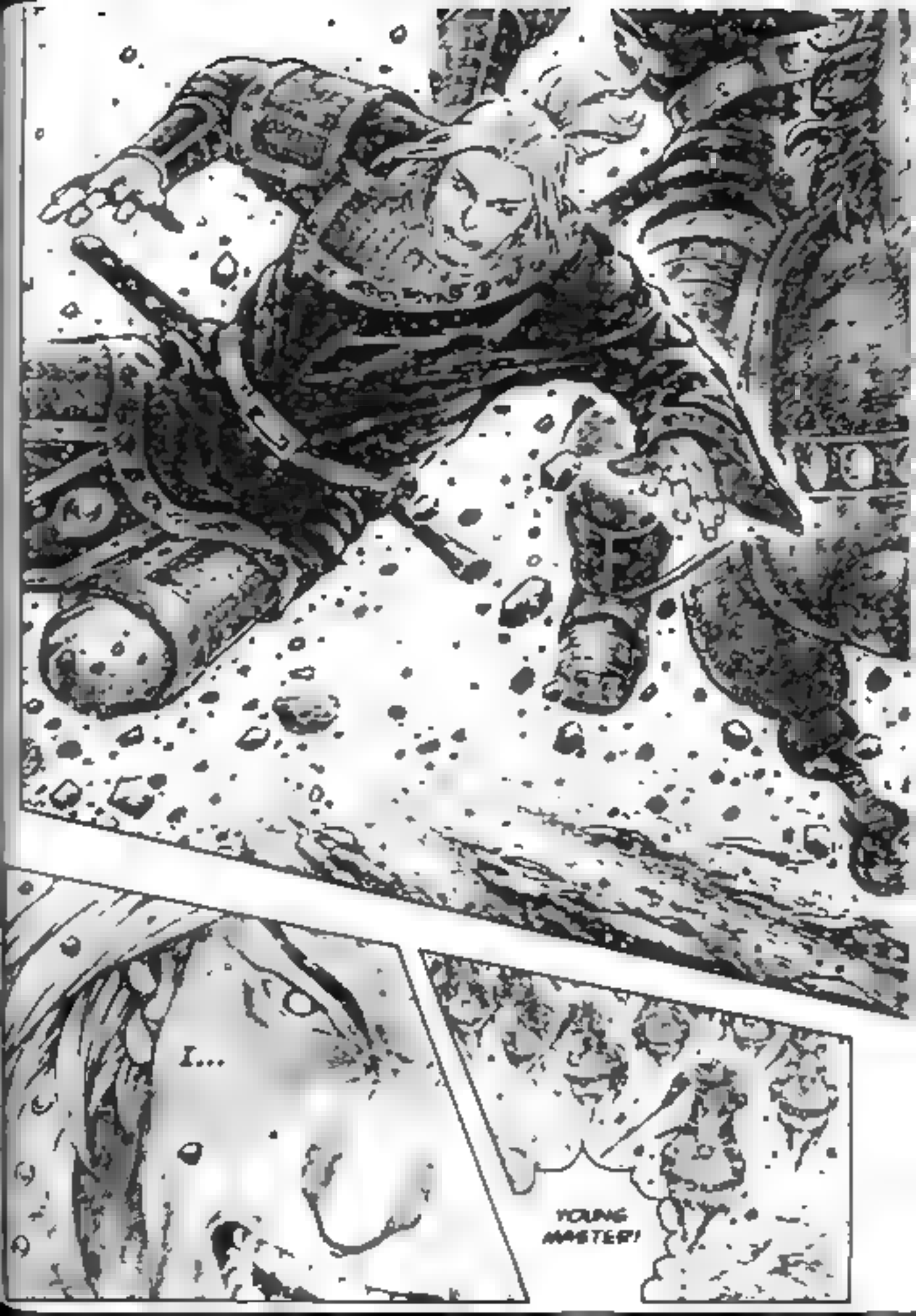
("GOOD THAT (YOU) COME")



IT... IT'S OVER!
DIE!
YOUNG MASTER!
MINE!


涤
07
!
!

YOU!
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
YOUNG MASTER!

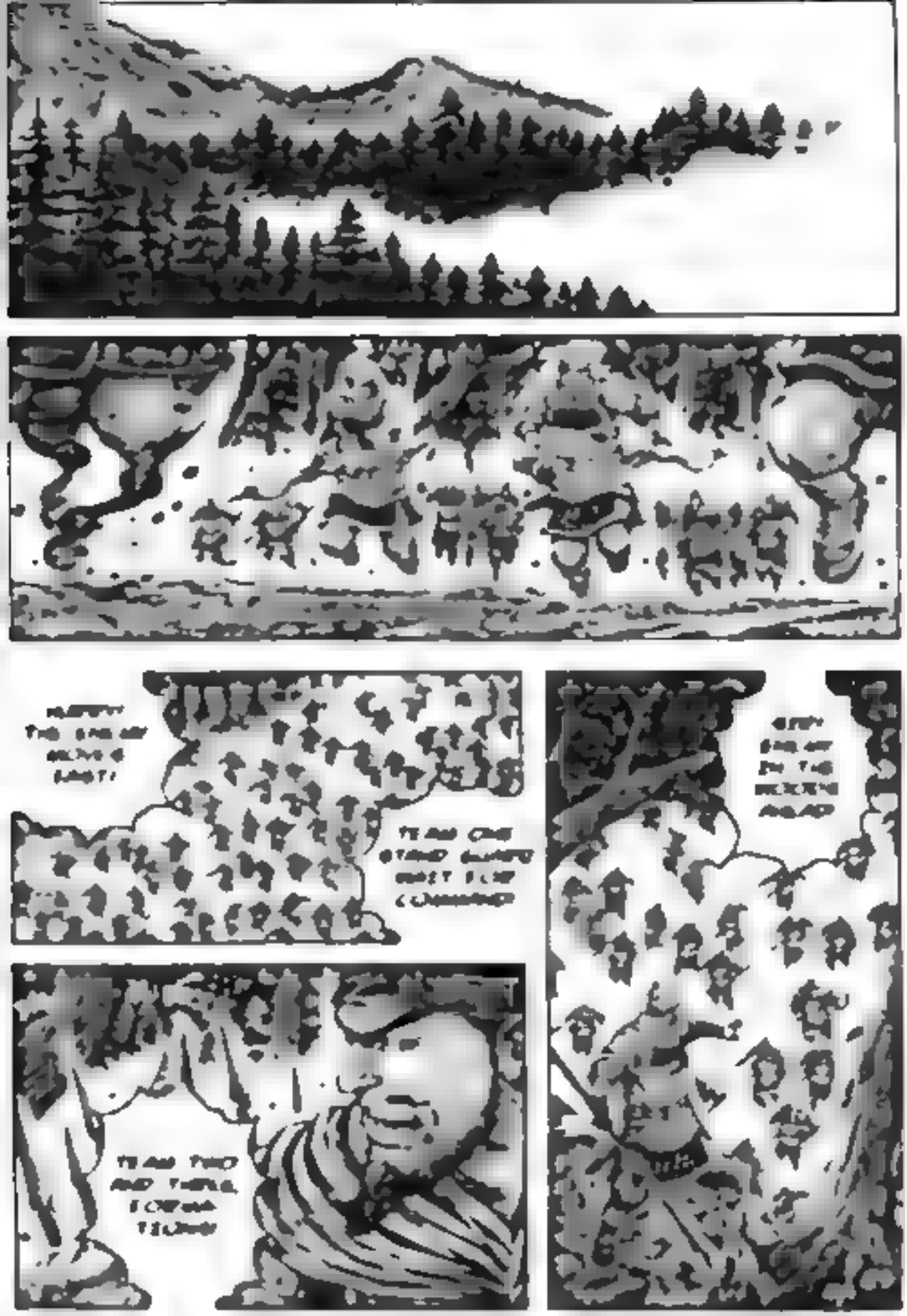

I...
YOUNG MASTER!

("YOUNG MASTER GO FIRST")

ZHANG HE WILL BE THE REAR GUARD.

HE ALWAYS STAYED BEHIND..
(OR "THE LAST TO GO")

HE BECAME SECOND TO NONE DURING
ZHONG DA'S TIME.



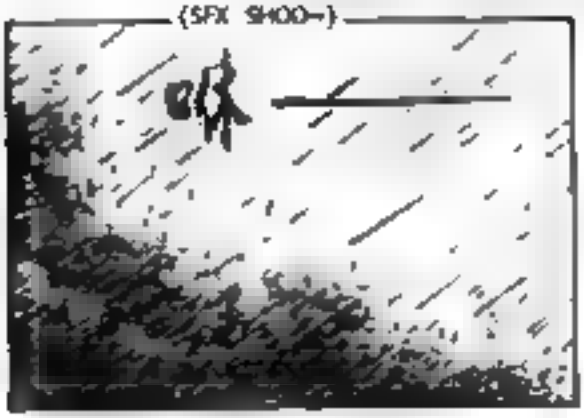
CHAPTER 277 THE PRESENCE OF A FORMIDABLE ENEMY

YUE JIN, TEST THE ENEMY'S STATUS!
LEFT TWO UP THREE, FIVE HUNDRED ONE ROUND!
ARCHERS, LEFT TWO UP THREE, FIVE HUNDRED SHOTS ONE VOLLEY!
FIRE!
(SPK SHOO~)

HOW?
!
WIND BLOWING TWO DEGREES TOWARD US. THEY HAVE THE LOCATION ADVANTAGE!

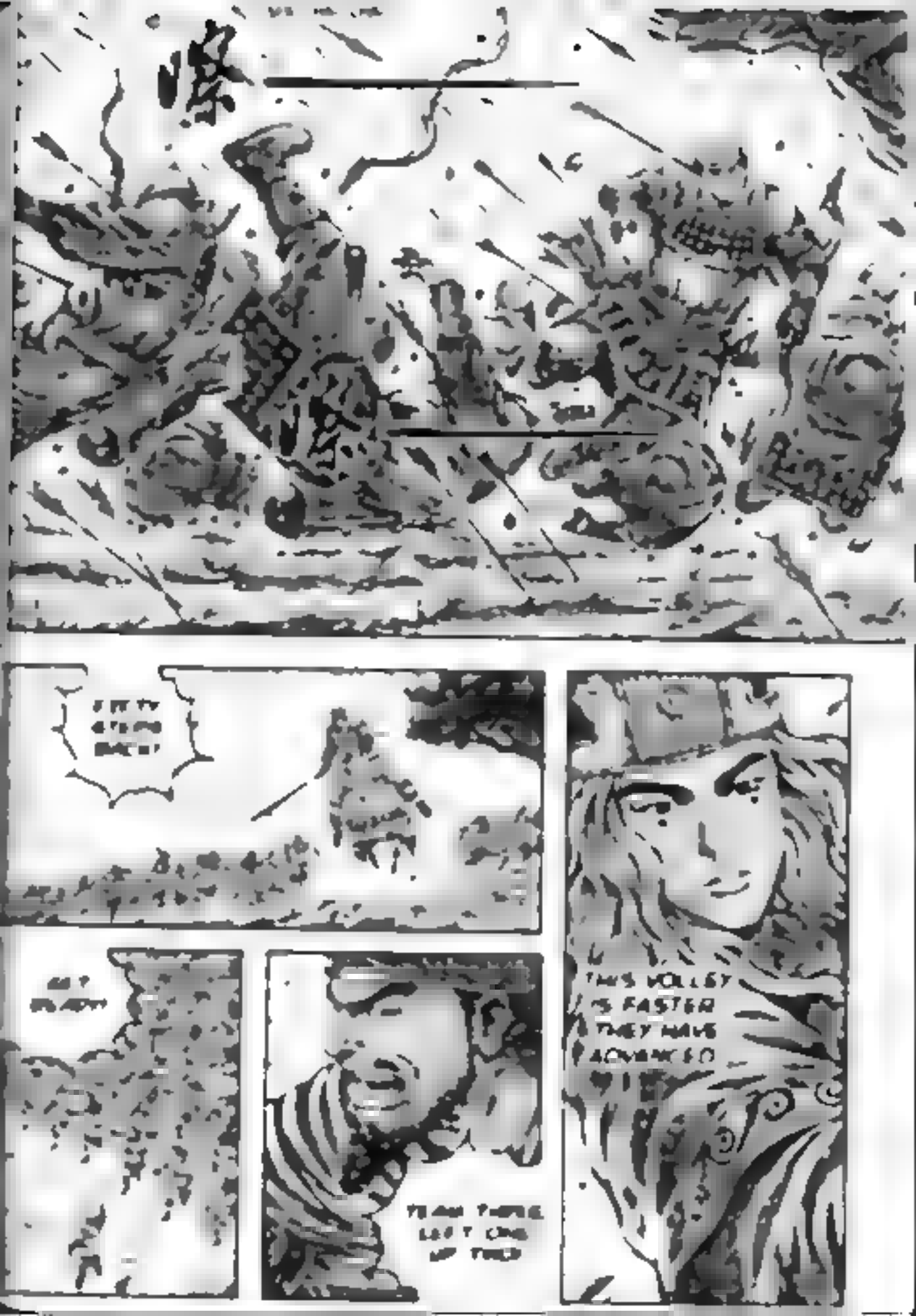
THE ENEMY IS AT LEFT ONE. TEAM TWO UP. FIVE HUNDRED SHOTS, TWO VOLLEYS!

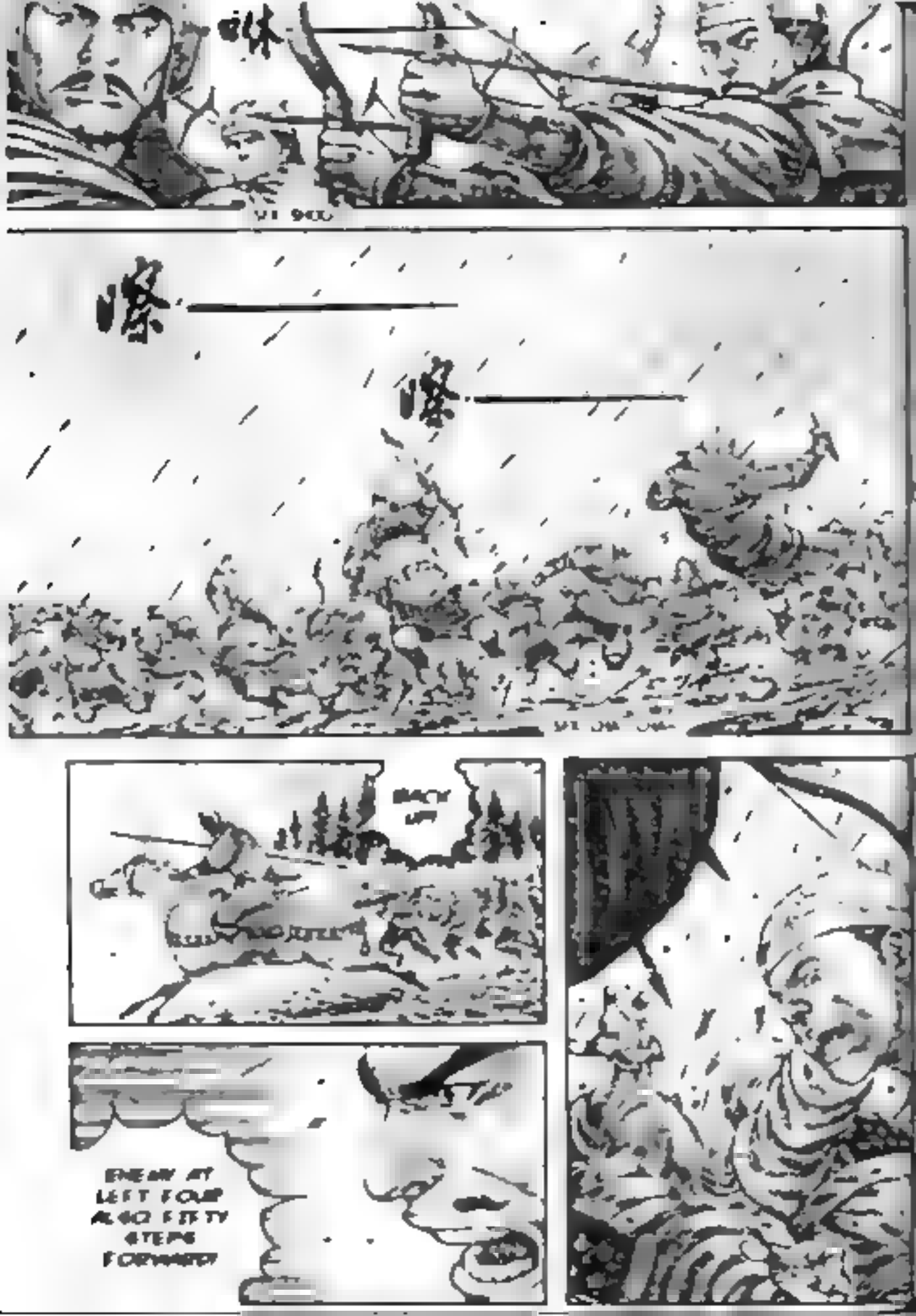
LEFT ONE UP THREE. GET READY!


(SFX SHOO~)

(SFX SHOO~)

EVEN FASTER THIS TIME!

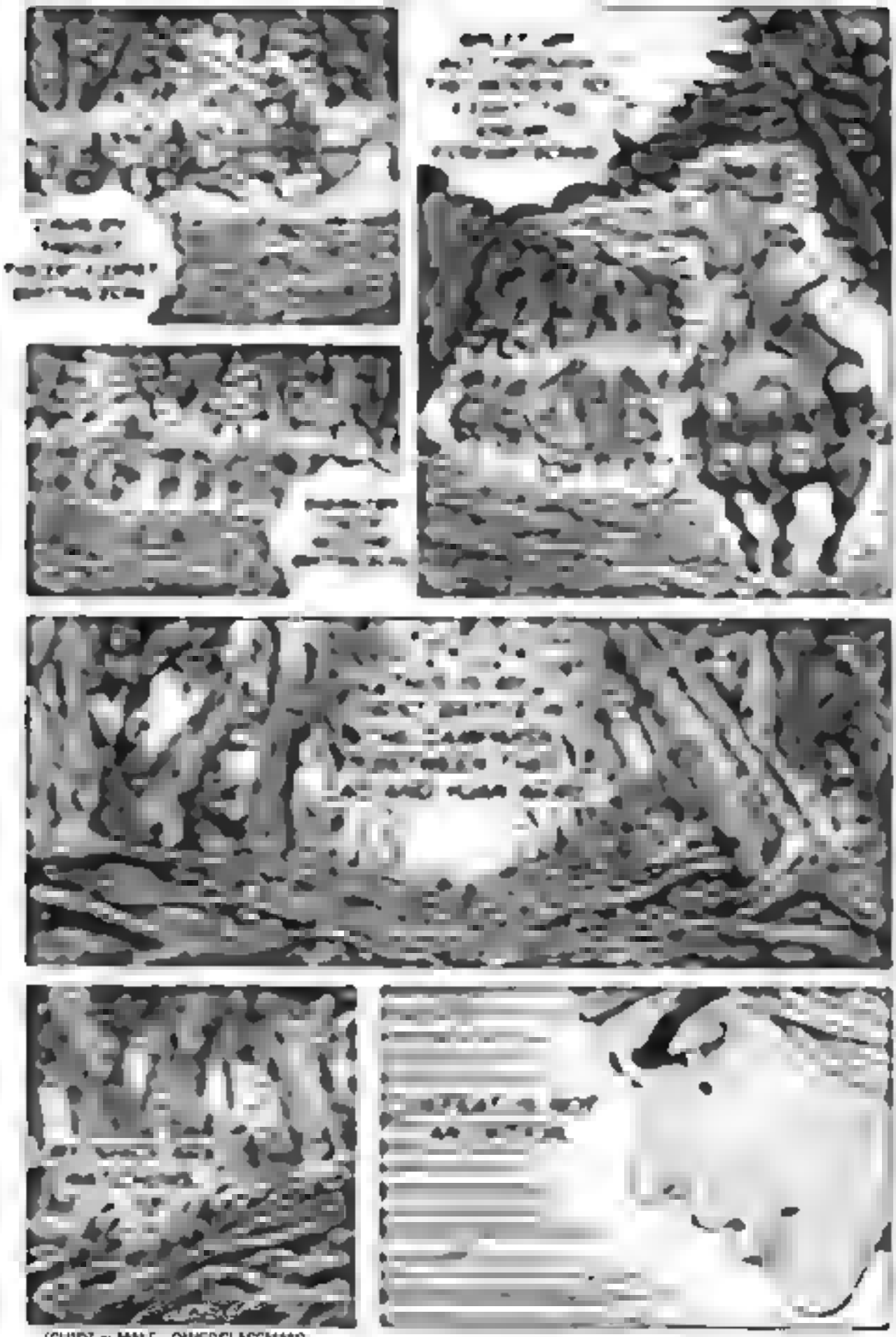



休
喀
喀
BACK UP
ENEMY AT LEFT FOUR O'CLOCK FIFTY STEPS FORWARD

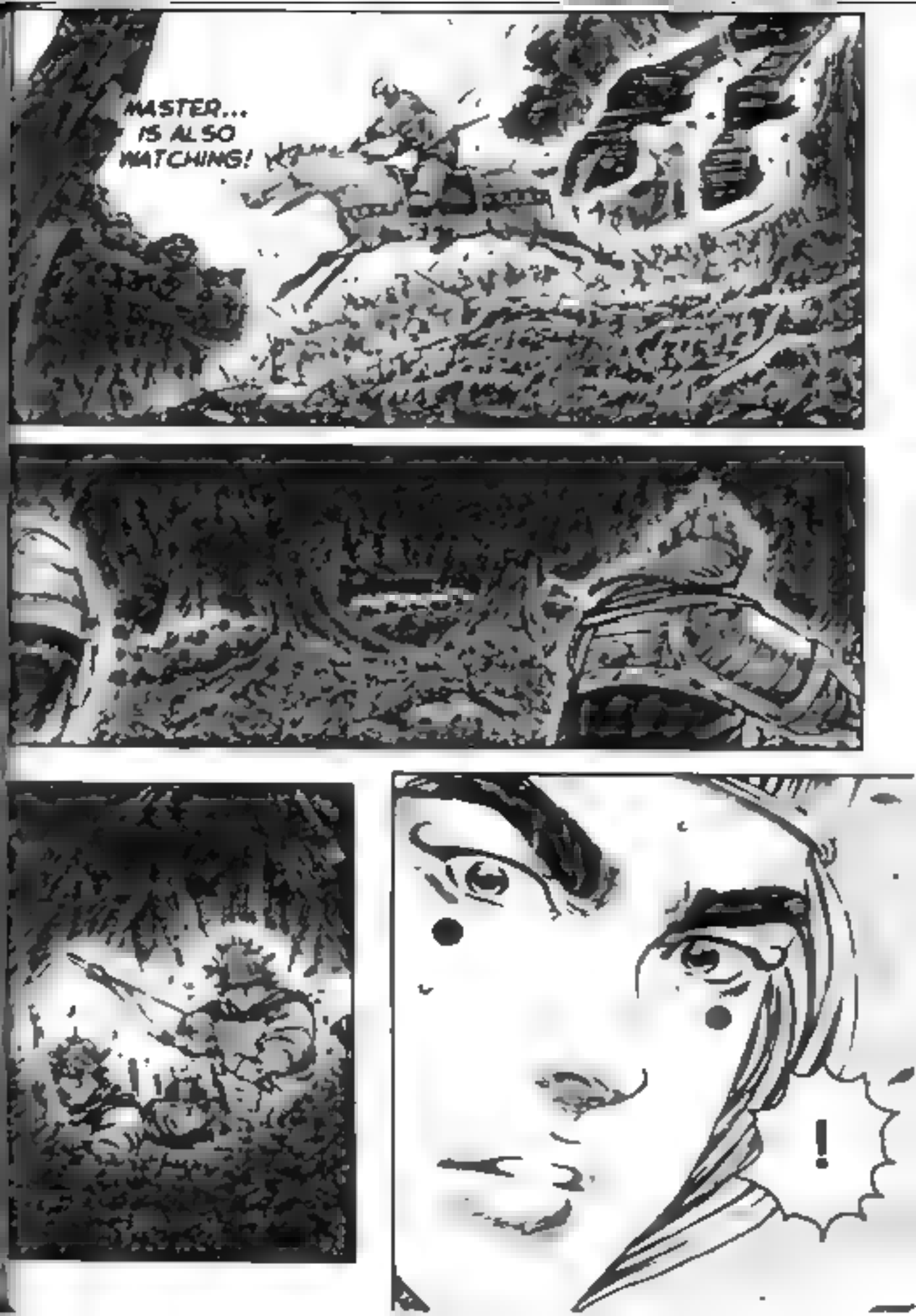
WAIT. THE ENEMY IS PLOTTING OUR MOVEMENTS.
HAVING SUCCESSFULLY ENTERED THE EAST SIDE, THEY MUST KNOW OUR DEPLOYMENT VERY WELL.
ADVISOR XUN, YOU MEAN.
STOP FOR NOW. WAIT AND SEE!
YOU WERE RIGHT. NO ONE BUT ME CAN LEAD THIS BATTLE!

THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF ENEMY AHEAD WE CAN'T AVOID. WE MUST FIGHT THEM IN THE WOODS
EVERYONE INTO THE WOODS!
THAT'S WHERE WE WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE YOU SAID!

ONE
TWO
THREE!
LOOK THEY FIRED AGAIN!
HERE THEY COME
(SFX SHOO-)
DONE!



(SHIDE = MALE LOWERCLASSMAN)


MASTER...
IS ALSO
WATCHING!
!

LISTEN UP!
AH— AMBUSH!
TEAM ONE, TARGET THIS IS CAVALRY!
TEAM THREE, TARGET—
TEAM TWO TARGET THIS IS INFANTRY!

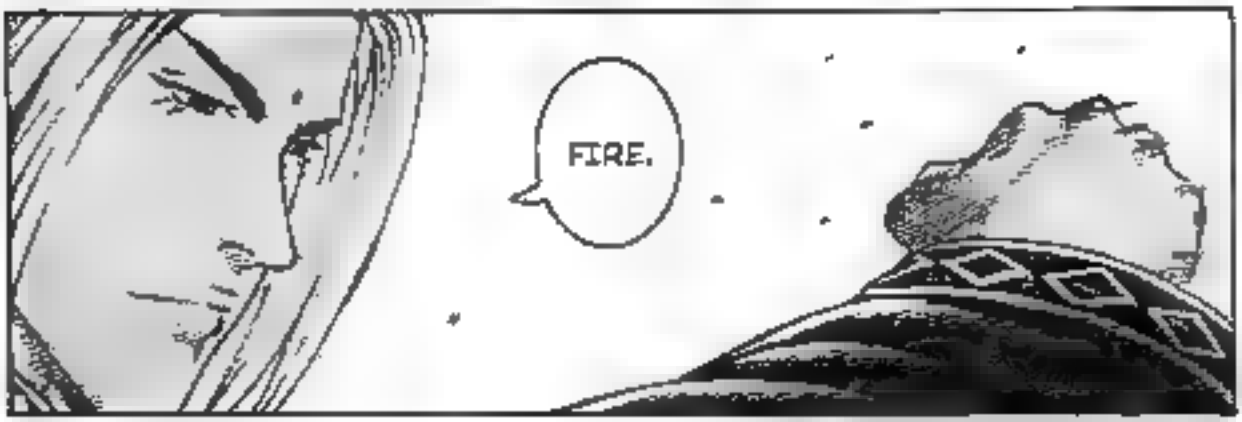
THE

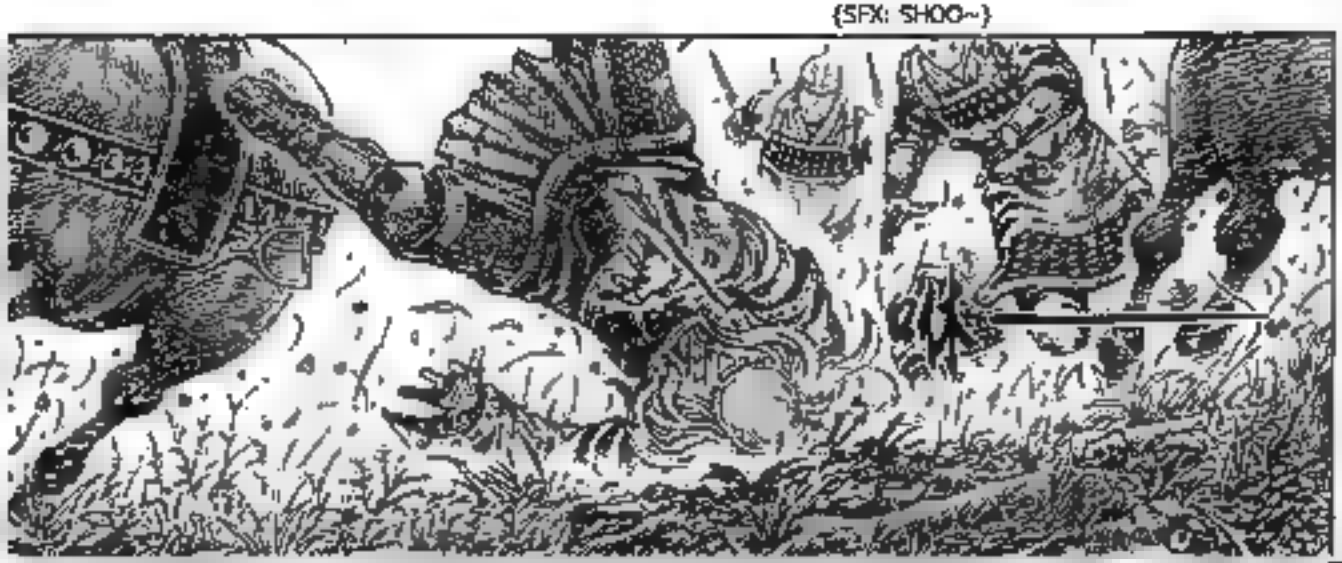
SHIXIONG.. IS ALSO WATCHING!
(SHIXIONG = MALE UPPERCLASSMAN)
LEADER.
YUAN FANG

喀
MASTER...

THE (BOND) BETWEEN EIGHT GENIUSES...

GAO LAN


FIRE.


{SFX: SHOO~}

IS
NO
MORE!

ONE DOWN.

WATER MIRROR RETIRED ON THAT DAY...

【下期預告】

然後，天地茫茫。
他的天，他的地，
在含血。